

IX. REPORTS OF CONFERENCE BOARDS AND AGENCIES

[Editor's Note: The following reports are reprinted from the *2012 Book of Reports*. To find actions taken or changes made in the reports, refer to Section IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS of this *Journal*. The report from the Council on Finance and Administration will be found in Section VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS of this *Journal*.]

THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

At the request of the bishop and the Common Table, the Rules Committee focused a good deal of attention this year on developing a Consent Agenda for sessions of the Annual Conference. This is a parliamentary procedure which allows the group to vote on a group of non-controversial items without discussion. A Consent Agenda has been used successfully at General Conference for many years and is also being implemented in several annual conferences. With Annual Conference being shortened this year, the committee thought it appropriate to look at the Consent Agenda as a way to allow the Annual Conference to focus more time on issues requiring discussion.

The committee looked at models for Consent Agendas from several annual conferences, and a task force developed a proposal which was endorsed by the Common Table. Basically it allows for the bishop, in consultation with a Consent Agenda Committee (composed of the conference Secretary, the conference Lay Leader, the chair of the Rules Committee, and the director of Connectional Ministries), to place on a Consent Agenda items distributed in pre-Annual Conference materials that require no action other than reception as reports. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a motion approved by the majority of the Annual Conference at the first business session. That item would then be placed on the regular agenda.

If this change to the Rules is approved, it will be implemented at this (2012) Annual Conference.

In other items referred to it, the Rules Committee dealt with two requests from the Common Table. One was a change to the organization of the Personnel Committee that allowed the Common Table to appoint the chair of the Personnel Committee, rather than requiring the conference Lay Leader to serve as chair. Another change dealt with eliminating the nomination of standing alternates to the Common Table by the conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The Rules Committee endorsed these changes.

The Rules Committee also dealt with restructuring issues for two conference agencies. It is recommended that Section V.B. 16. (new numbering) be changed to reflect the reduction in the size of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., from 30 to 24. The committee also approved changes to the responsibilities of the Directing Board of the Board of Discipleship in V.A.4.c. referred by the director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence. The Rules Committee also adopted a substitute paragraph concerning the Virginia United Methodist Foundation (V.B. 10.) that more fully reflected its structure and purpose.

At the request of the director of Congregational Excellence, the Rules Committee is recommending an addition to VI.D. that encourages districts to include lay persons from non-chartered faith communities in the members-at-large they elect to Annual Conference.

Other recommended changes to the Rules are basically editorial around the creation of the Bishops' Foundation and the reduction of number of districts from 18 to 16.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Insert and renumber: "II.E. CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda items and reports not requiring action by the Annual Conference other than a vote to receive said item for publication in the *Journal*, shall be placed on a Consent Agenda. For any item or report to be eligible for placement on the Consent Agenda, it must have been distributed in the pre-conference materials. Determination of items to be placed on the Consent Agenda shall be made annually by the bishop in consultation with the Consent Agenda Committee. This committee shall be composed of the conference Secretary, the conference Lay Leader, the chair of the Conference Rules Committee, and the director of Connectional Ministries. An individual item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a motion to that effect which is approved by a majority of the members of the Annual Conference, provided that such motion must be presented and approved during the first business session of the Annual Conference. When an individual item has been removed from the Consent Agenda, it shall be placed into the regular agenda."

V.A.4.c. Replace the second paragraph with: "The Directing Board will consist of the following ten (10) members: three officers (chair, vice chair and secretary) to be elected by the Annual Conference, the chair of the Best Practices Group, the chair of the Connecting Group, and five (5) Regional Network Leads. In addition, the Bishops' Foundation will be represented by one person with voice but no vote. The Directing Board will select individuals to serve as leads of the Regional Network Teams. The Regional Network Leads will be ex officio members of the Directing Board with voice and vote."

Replace the fourth paragraph with: "Members of the Regional Network Teams will be selected by the Regional Network Leads, in consultation with the Directing Board, based upon best practices research."

Replace the fifth paragraph with: "Each age-level council will meet at least annually as the conference council for the respective ministry areas (with additional members as required by conference Rules and the *Book of Discipline*, if any) for: (a) sharing of the best practices in their regions, (b) training which will enhance their service to the faith communities within each region, (c) coordinating of conference programs and initiatives as appropriate, and (d) serving as resources to the Regional Network Teams."

V.A.4.d. Replace the second paragraph with: "The membership of the board shall be 20 with 6 or 4 persons (one-half lay and one-half clergy) elected each year to replace outgoing classes."

V.A.4.f. in the third sentence, change "eighteen (18) district lay leaders" to "sixteen (16) district lay leaders."

Insert and renumber: "V.B.3. **Bishops' Foundation.** There shall be a Bishops' Foundation whose purpose is to provide training for leadership development of both lay and clergypersons of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in the areas of evangelism and preaching in the Wesleyan spirit, and whose Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) directors nominated by the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference and elected by the Annual Conference: five (5) clergy members and four (4) lay members serving for staggered terms of three (3) years after the initial term of 1, 2, and 3 years. The director of Connectional Ministries of the Virginia Conference or his/her designee will serve as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors."

V.B.10. Replace with: "V.B.11. There shall be a United Methodist Foundation organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶2513 and pursuant to the charter heretofore approved by the Annual Conference in 1970; eighteen (18) of the thirty (30) trustees shall be elected by the Annual Conference."

V.B.15. Change to V.B.16. and replace the first sentence with: “This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members in two classes serving eight-year terms. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy. Any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall also be a member of the agency (2008 Book of Discipline ¶639.2a)

Delete the second paragraph.

VI.D. Insert after the second sentence: “Districts are encouraged to include members-at-large from non-chartered faith communities being served by clergy with voting rights at Annual Conference, provided that they meet the provisions of 2008 Book of Discipline ¶602.4.

Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality

II.B. Change “Goodson Foundation and Stockton Academy of Evangelism” to “The Bishops’ Foundation.”

III. Delete the third sentence.

IV. After the first sentence, delete everything until the ninth sentence, beginning: “If a person is elected to fill an unexpired term ...” Delete the last sentence of the first paragraph.

In the second paragraph, first sentence, delete “and no alternate exists.”

VII. Replace the second sentence with: “The Common Table shall appoint the chair of the Personnel Committee.”

In closing, I want to express deep appreciation for faithful service to Brenda Biler, Carl Bundick, Al Lynch and Nan Pointer, who are rotating off the Rules Committee, and to Patricia Jones, who is resigning.

The Rev. Stephen G. Bray, Chair

THE COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY

The Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) continues to live into its new structure by identifying objectives and strategies in moving toward its mission of serving as a prophetic voice for the full and equal participation of ethnic and racial constituents into the total life and mission of the Virginia Conference. These objectives and strategies focus on three areas of emphasis:

- Leadership Excellence: Supporting clergy and laity in developing and strengthening the racial/ethnic church for witness and ministry.
- Congregational Excellence: Articulating ways to celebrate and strengthen our coming together on the local church, district and conference levels.
- Missional Excellence: Encouraging faith communities to reach beyond their walls in mission and global justice.

Highlights of work in specific racial/ethnic ministry areas during the 2011-2012 conference year include:

- The Working Group on Immigration by far the most ethnically and culturally diverse planning team for any event in the Virginia Conference, hosted the “Bishop’s Convocation: A Faith-Based Response to the Issue Surrounding Immigration” on Oct.1, 2011, at Grace UMC in Manassas. Jim Perdue Burke, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries working directly with the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, was the keynote speaker. The involvement of so many with diverse backgrounds in the planning and leadership of the event was a truly great accomplishment for our conference.

- On Jan. 9, a meeting of Latino pastors in the conference was held to accomplish three objectives: (1) development of a more formal support system for our Latino pastors; (2) establishment of teams to assist Anglo churches that desire to reach into the Latino communities around them; and (3) sharing stories of the transformational ministries that are happening in and through our Latino congregations. This was the first time that a gathering occurred on the conference level of only our pastors of Latino heritage and others directly involved in our Latino ministries. Previous meetings had included any and all persons interested in Latino ministry. This is a result of a desire among our Latino pastors to identify ways of offering greater support to one another.

- A full house of 85 participants representing congregations from across the conference filled the largest meeting space at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen on Feb. 18 to hear Dr. Fred Allen, director of the denomination’s Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21) ministry, talk about “crunch time” for making new disciples and moving the church forward. This event followed several years of Common Table support for an African American church resource team and specialized programming. The goal of this consultation with Dr. Allen was to begin a process of developing a strategic plan to better support and nurture leadership and congregational development in our existing predominantly African-American churches as well as to explore new church development possibilities in the Virginia Conference. Feedback and ideas offered during the consultation will be used along with work completed by various groups in recent years to identify next steps. As a result of the event, two of our predominantly African-American churches have started the process of becoming SBC21 Partner Congregations. This partnership provides for collaboration with Congregation Resource Centers across the denomination for training, direct coaching, empowerment and nurture.

- The Asian-American Pastors Association hosted a pilgrimage for spiritual renewal to Bupyeong Methodist Church in Incheon, South Korea. The event took place Oct. 27- Nov. 3, 2011. Under the co-leadership of Revs. M.J. Kim and Young Jin Cho, the pilgrimage was a prayer-based ministry intended for spiritual renewal by visiting and learning the fruits of the seeds American missionaries planted a century ago and experiencing contextual hands-on missions and ministries. CEMCA also offered financial support for the third Asian Pastors’ Family Retreat in December.

- The Conference Committee on Native American Ministries awarded two grants totaling \$9,600 from the Native American Ministries fund. These grants were provided to the Eastern Division of the Chickahominy Indians in support of cultural renewal work and the Lynchburg District (through Marsh Memorial UMC) for a Monacan Tribe Pow Wow event.

The Rev. Larry Jent, Co-Chair

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The mission of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is to challenge The United Methodist Church at all levels to work for full and equal participation of women in the total life of the denomination, including ordination of women, equal access to policy making and recognition that Jesus Christ calls men and women alike to salvation, liberation, discipleship and service in church and society. The Virginia Conference COSROW advocates for the full participation of lay and clergy women and girls at every level of church life. We also monitor all sessions of Annual Conference and conference committee meetings throughout the year to ensure that women are represented, heard, and given opportunities to serve.

At the 2011 Annual Conference, COSROW joined with the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) and Commission on Disabilities (COD) to share the responsibility for monitoring the participation of women, minorities and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church as represented by on-stage and at-the-microphone presence throughout Annual Conference. The statistics again showed that in planned segments, such as worship services and special reports, participation was fairly inclusive with evenly distributed involvement of clergy and lay, men and women. Moreover, we are pleased to report that there was a 3 percent increase in minority participation and 12.5 percent increase in youth/young adult participation from the previous year. These increases are commendable, but if we are to reflect God’s diversity we need to encourage opportunities for all God’s people to come to the table. It continues that in most reports from groups and during speeches from the floor of Annual Conference, the participants were overwhelmingly male and clergy.

The following chart summarizes the overall averages of 2011 Annual Conference participation by categories of interest to the Virginia Conference:

Category	Monitored Sessions – Average throughout Conference
Female	35.7%
Male	64.3%
Racial/Ethnic	15.7%
Youth and Young Adult	21%
Clergy	47%
Laity	53%

During the past year, Virginia Conference COSROW continued to use green communication tools such as e-mailing every clergy woman a copy of *The Flyer*, a newsletter published by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW). Available through the GCSRW website <www.gcsrw.org>, along with a variety of awareness and training information, *The Flyer* offers updates on women’s issues and provides suggestions for relevant resources.

While COSROW also uses teleconferencing tools when possible to minimize in-person meetings, we also recognize the value of gathering in person to share our stories and encourage each other in our mission. We look forward to meeting jointly with CEMCA and COD in September to discuss our common concerns of inclusivity for all God’s children in The United Methodist Church.

Shan Sixbey, Co-Chair

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Conference Board of Trustees met for its regularly scheduled meetings plus an additional conference-call meeting.

Following the 2011 Annual Conference, Bishop Kammerer appointed an Episcopal Residence Building Committee, which worked in conjunction with the Conference Board of Trustees, to discern the best location for a new episcopal residence. Given the options (1) of purchasing an already constructed house which met conference parsonage housing standards, ADA requirements, and certification as a “green” house with energy efficiency, (2) purchasing an already constructed house and re-structuring the house to meet the same standards previously described; or (3) building a new episcopal residence, it was determined that the building of a new residence would be the optimum choice. The location, recommended by the Episcopal Residence Building Committee, Triple Oaks subdivision, in Hanover County, approximately a 15-minute drive from the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen, was agreed upon by the conference Board of Trustees. The Episcopal Residence Building Committee recommended a Kensington model floor plan with modifications, to be built by Main Street Homes. This also was acceptable to the Board of Trustees. The contract was signed by officers of the Trustees, and the ground-breaking has taken place. We anticipate that the new episcopal residence will be completed by Aug. 1, 2012.

The current episcopal residence was to be placed on the market for sale in May.

Most of the planned repairs and upgrades to the United Methodist Conference Center have been completed. Solar panels have been installed and dedicated.

The Conference Trustees continue to move forward in addressing property issues related to discontinued and/or abandoned churches in the Virginia Conference.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are currently in the process of being amended in order to be in agreement with The 2008 Book of Discipline.

It was with deep sadness that the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Edwin Harless, who served faithfully on the board for many years. In addressing the vacancy created by Ed Harless’ resignation, the Board of Trustees elected William “Bill” Long to fill the vacancy until Annual Conference

James E. Hedrick Sr., vice president of the Conference Trustees, claimed the promise of the Resurrection on November 9, 2011. We give thanks to God for Jim’s years of faithful service to the conference Trustees.

With Jim Hedrick’s death, a vacancy was created; the Board of Trustees elected Patricia “Pat” Wright to fill the vacancy until Annual Conference.

The Rev. Sallye E. H. Bowen, President

THE EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE BUILDING COMMITTEE

The 2011 Annual Conference approved a recommendation to establish an Episcopal Residence Building Committee to either purchase an existing home that meets conference Parsonage Guidelines, ADA requirements, and is energy-efficient, or purchase an existing home with a plan to renovate to meet the previously listed standards, or purchase a tract of land on which to construct a new home.

Bishop Kammerer appointed the following Episcopal Residence Building Committee: Lee Sheaffer (chair), Tommy Herndon, Shirley Huffman, Craig Lane, Albert Lee, Kirk Nave, Martha Dodd-Slipp, Pat Wright and David Dommissie (conference staff). The committee met for the first time on July 27, 2011. It explored homes available for purchase or renovation to meet the required standards within a 20-mile radius of the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen. After extensive exploration and research it was determined that no homes meeting the required standards were currently available. The committee then explored construction companies for possible sites and plans to meet the desired results.

The committee kept the conference Board of Trustees, the Episcopal Committee and CFA informed of its actions after each meeting. After due diligence the committee recommended that a contract be entered with Main Street Homes to construct a Kensington house on a one-and-a-half acre lot in the Triple Oaks Subdivision, which is eight miles from the United Methodist Center, north on Staples Mills Road (U.S. 33). The house will be fully handicapped accessible, meets ADA requirements, and qualifies for Star Energy Efficient certification.

The conference Episcopal Committee and CFA approved the recommendation. The Conference Board of Trustees approved the recommendation on Dec. 2, 2011, and authorized two members of its board to enter a contract with Main Street Homes for the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Conference.

The present episcopal residence went on the market on May 15. The new episcopal residence is scheduled to be completed with closure

scheduled for Aug. 1.

The 2011 Annual Conference further authorized that CFA would make available up to \$200,000 for securing the newly constructed residence and selling the present residence. It is anticipated that this will be accomplished for under \$100,000.

The Rev. Lee Sheaffer, Chair

THE CABINET

The conference year began with a redistricting plan, reducing the number of districts in the Virginia Conference from 18 to 16. This resulted in the realignment of churches on districts. Transitioning into these new relationships often required decisions related to shared leadership, property, gathering space and the rhythms of ministry. It also provided an opportunity to be reminded of our connectional relationships and our mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” as we celebrate shared ministry.

Last summer, the Cabinet learned of the Vital Congregations project. Following a study commissioned by The United Methodist Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table to better identify the key activities of vital congregations, the Council of Bishops, issued a Call to Action report. The 2011 charge conference season was focused on sharing resources and the expectation that each local church would be submitting numeric and narrative goals for the next quadrennium related to worship attendance, professions of faith, new members, small groups and mission giving. Bishop Kammerer presented the Virginia Conference goals as an offering at the 2012 General Conference. Dialogue is taking place to ensure a singular focus for the Virginia Conference, with regard to the Vital Congregations project and the conference All Things New: Fruitful and Multiplying.

In April 2011, the Cabinet partnered with the Board of Ordained Ministry to develop a process to fulfill *Book of Discipline* ¶430.4 (preparation for clergy and congregations for cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments). A Cross-Cultural/Cross-Racial Resource Team has been formed to offer ongoing cultural competency training and support to: 1) Clergy entering or serving in cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments; 2) Lay leadership in churches receiving cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments; 3) The Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees of Ordained Ministry; and 4) The Cabinet. Kaleidoscope, Inc., trained this Resource Team on June 12 and again on September 24-26. The Cabinet, conference Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees of Ordained Ministry will be trained Sept. 27. The Cabinet is developing a process for making cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments and support systems for the pastors and churches involved. The Fredericksburg District is developing a cross-cultural immersion experience for clergy and laity to grow in their cultural competency. As the communities around our churches continue to grow in diversity, we must be prepared and ready to welcome pastors and community members of all different cultures and races. The kingdom of God depends on us.

Finally, at this 2012 Annual Conference, we thank God for the ministry of Bishop Charlene Kammerer and her husband, Leigh. Through their faithful, indefatigable leadership over the past eight years, we have seen the grace of God, heard the words of Christ as all are welcomed to the table, and have been touched by humble servant leadership. May God bless their continuing journey.

The Rev. Dr. Brenda J. Biler, Dean

THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry is called to identify, examine, develop and support those persons who would lead the Church in making disciples for the transformation of the world, in the order of elder, the Virginia diaconate (which includes the order of deacon, diaconal ministers and deaconesses) and the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, and the various fields of certified professionals. Our full report on those who are recommended for licensing, associate membership, commissioning and ordination has been reported to the clergy executive session for its action.

On Jan. 1, 2012, the conference launched the new Center for Clergy Excellence, where the Board of Ordained Ministry will now reside. The Rev. Beth Downs is the director of Clergy Excellence. This new center will provide resourcing to develop, train and support clergy leaders in light of the conference’s core values of excellence and fruitfulness. The center will collaborate with the other ministry centers related to the Common Table as new initiatives are developed.

In the 2011 clergy age trends report of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, the Virginia Conference has the highest number of young clergy under the age of 35 among conferences in the United States. We are also in the top 10 with the highest percentage of young clergy under the age of 35.

The *Calling 21* program continues to cultivate local churches that will serve as calling congregations and host summer interns; this summer there will be seven interns serving these faith communities: Basic, Braddock Street, Spirit and Life, St. John’s (Eastern Shore), St. Luke’s (York River) and Williamsburg. An exploration event for high school students, called SERVE, will be held in Virginia, in partnership with Randolph Macon College, and will be held Aug. 5-7. You can register at <www.vaumc.org>.

Following a study by a joint task force between the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet, we have begun to use the Emotional and Social Competency Inventory (ESCI-U) in order to evaluate more carefully the interpersonal skills of candidates for ministry.

In the areas of development and support, we have two new initiatives: The Virginia Conference has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the General Commission on Religion and Race to develop and train a cross-cultural/cross-racial resource team. This initiative emerged from a partnership between the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet, with assistance from Martha Stokes, conference director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence. During the next six months, specialists will work with the team members to equip them for their ministry. The new team will offer cultural competency training and support to clergy and lay leadership in cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments, the Board of Ordained Ministry, district committees on ordained ministry and the Cabinet.

In the church size initiatives, two-day training was held for large church lead pastors and church staffs in the fall of 2011. The next event for large church lead pastors will be on Oct. 31 with a focus on preaching, led by the Rev. Dr. James Howell of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, N.C. The mid-size church lead pastors gather annually; their next event will be on Nov. 1 with a focus on strategic planning, goal-setting, and leading change, led by Dr. Gil Rendle. A new small church leadership team, formed in partnership with the Center for Lay Leadership Excellence, will begin its work in July.

This year, a task group developed resources and sample job descriptions for associate pastors. These can be found at the conference website, <www.vaumc.org>. In support of seminary students, we gave Pell Grants, service loans and scholarships totaling \$89,000 to 23 persons during 2011.

God continues to summon spiritual leaders to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Persons who are interested in pursuing God’s call to clergy leadership are encouraged to contact their local church pastor, district superintendent or the Center for Clergy Excellence.

The following persons have been approved for professional certification: Children’s Ministry – Patricia T. Granberg; Older Adult Ministry – Annette Pomeroy.

The Rev. Jeffrey P. Mickle, Chair

THE BOARD OF LAITY

Since the 2011 Annual Conference approved our restructuring, we have been living into this new structure for our ministry to the laity in the Virginia Conference. We continue to be advocates for laity in all areas of ministry. Our hope and prayer is that all laity will be equipped and empowered to help lead the church in transforming the world as disciples for Jesus Christ.

The conference Board of Laity helped to create a culture of call by sponsoring a one- day VocationCARE Event on March 24 at Good Shepherd UMC. The event was led by the Rev. Alan Combs and the Rev. Jessie Squires and was attended by teams from districts.

Having been approved by the 2011 Annual Conference, the three new teams of Engaging, Equipping and Empowering began their work in the fall of 2011:

The Engaging Team (Holistic Stewardship), led by Bob Forrest, met in September to plan its work for the future. The team focused on teaching about God’s gifts, and how to form a stronger call for laity. It is part of our tradition to “offer them Christ” and remember our commitment of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. To further strengthen the mentoring between the district lay leaders and local lay leaders, better training and improved communications were proposed. It is the goal of each team to partner with the clergy to live out God’s call to transform the world.

The Equipping Team, led by Kathy Lutman, continues to explore and live into this new structure. Several first year goals have been set:

- Training of new district Lay Leaders;
- Working with conference staff to resource Leadership Development and Nominations Committees;
- Inventorying current training opportunities and resources and having them listed on the conference website;
- Supporting the directors of Lay Speaking Ministries in developing new training opportunities though the Lay Servants Academy.

In the upcoming year the team will strive to educate and make available additional leadership training and resources for the equipping of the laity of the Virginia Conference.

The Board of Laity started working on empowering over a decade ago with the new leadership style of “Partners in Ministry,” which focused on lay-clergy partnership in shared ministry. Under the new structure the Empowering Team, led by Darlene Amon, established several certainties: 1) In God’s design ALL baptized Christians are called into ministry; 2) Laity need to stop being complacent and realize ministry is more than serving on a committee; 3) Clergy must train laity for ministry according to their gifts, then let go of the task so laity can serve; 4) Partnership includes trust, relationship, win-win, etc.

The Empowering Team is also working on a training piece suitable for districts and local churches, which will emphasize the above realities. To effectively deliver this instrument, the team conducted a survey of the current methods of communication used in our districts. The results follow: power point and DVD is best for training; computer is best for gathering information; district newsletters and hand-outs are the best avenues for sharing Lay Speaking information, and the percentage of local church lay leaders with computers range from 50 to 95 percent.

The Empowering Team looks forward to sharing this new training material during the upcoming year for we are all called into ministry!

Lay Speaking Ministries, led by Johnnie Draughon, have adopted the name “Lay Servants” in the Virginia Conference. We know that our more than 1,500 Certified Lay Speakers (CLS) and Local Lay Speakers (LLS) are involved in all aspects of ministry in their local churches, districts and the conference. Our lay speakers are using their spiritual gifts to teach, sing, tell stories, lead small groups, chair and serve on committees, and serve on mission teams – locally, nationally, and internationally. Many have been called to minister to our shut-ins, prisoners, children, the homeless, serve as Supply and Certified Lay Ministers, all helping to “Make disciples for the transformation of the world.”

There are 19 Advanced Lay Speaking courses in leading, caring and communicating ministries which provide an ideal foundation for supporting the Board of Laity’s structure of engaging, equipping and empowering the laity of the Virginia Conference. To that end we have opened our more than 80 Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking courses at the conference and district levels to anyone desiring to learn more about a particular ministry. Our prayer is that many of these students, after learning about the many types of ministry available through the program, will elect to pursue certification as a lay speaker. Since we just started this program actual numbers are not available – we did have 40 non-CLSs take advanced courses at the 2012 academy. We also try to expose our CLSs to a wide assortment of ministry opportunities during shared fellowship time at our training events and by providing opportunities for various ministries to address our students. We have also invited other ministries to provide their advance training simultaneously during academy.

Paul reminds us in Roman’s 10 of the prophet Isaiah’s words, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.” Our prayer is that the laity of the Virginia Conference will all have “beautiful feet.”

For the last three years the Lay Servant Academy, led by David Bailey, has continued to gradually change its focus along with the direction set conference-wide by the district directors of Lay Speaking and approved by the Board of Laity. First was to engage prospective lay speakers in roles that were broader than just filling the pulpit as a substitute. Next we added emphasis moved to equip more laity than just lay speakers using the existing curriculum and allowing persons to participate that were not necessarily on the track for certification as a lay speaker. The most recent addition was to empower lay servants to explore other ministries by offering mini-courses that allowed participants to sample six different topics in the weekend or concentrate on one area with a full ten-hour class. Twenty-five percent of the attendees this year chose the mini-courses. This has encouraged us to develop recommendations for more diverse course offerings in future Lay Servant Academies.

Gifts have been presented to outgoing District Lay Leaders Susie Wolf (Farmville) and Becky Breeding (Harrisonburg). District Lay Leader pins were presented to Johnnie Morris (Farmville), Gene Cross (Arlington) and Rodney Bussard (Harrisonburg).

As my term as Virginia Conference Lay Leader comes to an end, I want to express my thanks to all of those who have served on the Board of Laity over the last six years and for your love and support for me. I want to thank Bishop Kammerer for her constant support and care. Without Martha Stokes and Cindy Ingroff, I would not have been able to do this important work and I thank them for all the many ways they have been supportive and helpful. I also thank the Rev. Marc Brown and all of the conference staff — you are amazing! And to all of you across this wonderful annual conference, I thank you for your support and for your prayers. Please continue to call me if I can be of assistance.

Shirley Cauffman, Conference Lay Leader

THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN

The primary purpose of United Methodist Men (UMMen) is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships. Accordingly, Virginia Conference United Methodist Men works with district organizations in developing programs to meet the needs and interests of men of all ages.

Our districts have adjusted to the realignment of going from 18 to 16 districts. We have district presidents in 14 of those 16 districts. Our chartered fellowships have dropped below 300, which is alarming, as we have 1,192 local United Methodist congregations in our conference.

We had 341 charters in 2008 and need to achieve that goal again. Charters are a very important part of the organization of the UMMen. The charter is the connectional link that binds all of our local units together in ministry and provides the major source of the funding of our General Commission of the United Methodist Men, which in turn can provide the needed resources for doing ministry together. It is through chartering that the General Commission raises more than 78 percent of its operational budget and could, with some effort toward chartering, become the only commission that is self-funded.

Virginia UMMen continues support and advocacy of the Heart Haven’s homes to reach out to those with intellectual challenges in life. Our online fund-raising campaign for Heart Haven’s Endowment Fund for the ongoing maintenance of the existing and future Heart Haven’s homes did not meet the anticipated expectation. We will continue efforts to increase the Endowment Fund until the goal is achieved.

Last year we signed a covenant agreement at Annual Conference establishing Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry (DBOM) in the Virginia Conference. This is a prison ministry of taking the *Disciple* Bible studies to those in prison. I am pleased to report DBOM of Virginia is on the move. It has achieved 501(c) 3 status and trained and certified a core of men and women to go into the prisons. We have identified the following prisons and juvenile correctional centers to have the *Disciple* Bible study in this year: Beaumont Juvenile, Deep Meadow, Dillwyn, three units at Greensville, the Virginia Correctional Center for Women and Sussex II. These facilities already have *Disciple* Bible study or are slated to begin the study.

The Wesleyan Building Brothers process completed the second generation of Spiritual Fathers and has moved into the third generation. This process enables men to experience first-hand spiritual formation of the heart, the pursuit of God and the full meaning of what is a mature follower of Jesus Christ. The revitalizing aspect of the process affects not only the men in the process but also reaches into the homes, churches and community.

Virginia United Methodist Men believe strongly in making Jesus Christ the center of our lives. We are adamant about “being” disciples so that we can fulfill the great commission to “go and make disciples.” It is in that Christ’s power that we endeavor to “be doers of the word and not hearers only.” It is through this transformation of the hearts of men that we work to fulfill the vision set forth by the Virginia Conference and The United Methodist Church.

Jim Green, President

THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The 2011-2012 goals were set by the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women (UMW) Executive Committee to help us live out and exemplify for others our vision of “Turning Faith, Hope, and Love into Action” on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world. Strongly believing in more prayer more power, we committed to utilize the Prayer Calendar and encourage all members to join us praying daily for mission personnel and projects and our church and conference leaders. Our districts and local churches are drawn closer to God and to each other through Bible studies, district prayer breakfasts, spiritual life retreats, and prayer partners between conference Mission Team members and their counter-parts among the districts.

The districts and local churches are where most of the work of the UMW is done. The conference UMW has provided opportunities for learning about leadership through officer training, about mission at the School of Christian Mission (co-sponsored with the conference Board of Global Ministries), about engaging in social action at United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, and about spiritual growth at the Spiritual Life Retreat — all of which are enhanced by a strong Reading Program. Annual events are intended to inspire us to live out our vision. The frequent communications between mission team members and their counterparts sharpen the focus on our vision and strengthen and encourage us to achieve our goals.

At the July 2011 School of Christian Mission, participants had the opportunity to attend two studies: The Journey: forgiveness, restorative justice and reconciliation and either the study of Haiti, challenges and hope or Joy to the World. Newsletters from the districts indicate many of the districts and local churches held mini-schools of mission on one or more of the topics studied.

The theme for the 39th conference annual meeting was “All Things New In Christ: Walk with Wholeness.” Dr. Jennifer Braaten, president of Ferrum College and our keynote speaker, gave an inspirational and motivational presentation that was held in high regard by the assembly. The 16 district presidents were introduced to the assembly after processing in, each wearing a red sash with her district monogrammed in black. This provided an opportunity to identify the 16 districts that emerged from the redistricting process at 2011 Annual Conference. This meant in a number of cases new elections of officers, necessitating additional officer training in July at the close of the School of Christian Mission. New standing rules were written, monies transferred to new districts, and other adjustments made while new bonds of friendship were being formed. New district names — Elizabeth River, James River, York River, and Fredericksburg — appeared while older names — Ashland, Norfolk, Peninsula, Petersburg, Portsmouth, and Rappahannock — disappeared. Committees of hard-working women worked diligently to ensure that the new district leadership, where possible, was representative of the new configuration of churches. Celebrations were held by the newly formed districts to elect and install officers, adopt new budgets, adopt new standing rules, and be inspired by a speaker.

The 2012 March Mission Team and Executive Committee meetings were held in Portsmouth. A much-needed canned food offering was made to Wesley Service Center and a re-consecration service held. The Mission Team planted biennials/perennials while there.

Conference UMW Mission Giving in 2011 was \$1,135,477. 52. This includes \$738,459.47 for Women’s Division projects, \$114,020.84 for supplemental, national, and international projects, and \$282, 997.21 for Virginia projects. It is truly astonishing how much mission and outreach is made possible because of the dedicated effort and leadership of United Methodist Women in local churches.

A busy time lies ahead with more opportunities to make a difference to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To God be the glory for all we achieve.

Olivia T. Hinton, President

THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SECRETARIES, VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The purpose of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members in order to provide individual growth, professional development, continuous education and spiritual enrichment. PAUMCS promotes and encourages the training and support of United Methodist church secretaries; serves as an advocate for emerging concerns that affect church secretaries; encourages and assists in the establishment of chapters of church secretaries, within or across jurisdictional and annual conference boundaries, and assists in coordinating the program and work of these chapters.

The Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS was established in 1999 at Blackstone. Since that time, membership has grown to as many as 90 members and an all time high of 130 attendees at a fall event at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen. The chapter sponsors two meetings each year: normally, a one-day fall training event and a two-day spring spiritual growth retreat.

Members are persons presently or previously, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer, engaged in administrative work in any local church or agency of The United Methodist Church.

During the past conference year, Virginia PAUMCS:

- Had one member attend PAUMCS Certification Institute at Nashville. Susan Fawcett from Fredericksburg UMC received her certification at the National PAUMCS Conference in Richmond.
- In August distributed a six-page mailing, including a letter of invitation from Bishop Kammerer, to the administrative staff of the 1,200 charges of the Virginia Conference.
- On Oct. 5 held our “Experience Your Conference Connection” event featuring Stephanie Davis, Virginia Conference archivist, and Tami J. Wyrick, executive director of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association, at the conference center, with 65 in attendance.
- Hosted the national PAUMCS conference, April 12-15, at the Hilton Hotel at Short Pump in Richmond. Highlights of the conference included a Stop Hunger Now food packaging event; special guest speakers the Rev. Marc Brown, the Rev. John Briggs, Mrs. Kathy Merry, the Rev. Dan Garrett and the Rev. Al Horton; preaching from Bishop Charlene Kammerer and the Rev. Myrtle Francis Hatcher; dinner and a tour of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; and a historical bus tour including Monument Avenue, the Virginia Capitol and St. John’s Church. More than 200 PAUMCS members from across the country participated.
- In early 2011 lost two long-time, dedicated members: Petersburg District Secretary Wanda “Sam” Perkinson and Ashland District Secretary Marilyn “Lyn” Robeson. Virginia PAUMCS still feels their presence as we suffer their loss.

Susan Mundell Petrey, President

THE CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Chairpersons:

Marc Brown, *director of Connectional Ministries*
Shirley Cauffman, *Conference Lay Leader*

Alexandria – Sue Boltz
Charlottesville – Richard McDowell
Eastern Shore – Harold White
Farmville – Carol Sanger
Harrisonburg – Monty Cox
Lynchburg – James W. Martin
Roanoke – Tim Tate
Staunton – Susan Allen

Arlington – Richard Dawson
Danville – Beth McLemore
Elizabeth River – Danny J. Kesner
Fredericksburg – Teresa Smith
James River – Sally McGrath
Richmond – Maxine Mallory
Winchester – Mike Kendall
York River – Doug Gestwick

NOMINATIONS

Common Table for Church Vitality

Pat Inge– *Mission and New Churches (Lay)*

Sonja Oliver– *Inclusivity*

Todd Schlechty– *Mission and New Churches (Clergy)*

Board of Church and Society

Clergy
Marilyn Heckstall
Scott Hopkins
Eduardo Carrillio
David Roane
James Templeton

Lay
Cecil Creasy
Juanito Csontos
Hunter Mabry

Church Development Team

Lynne Alley-Grant
Carl Perez

Susie Wolf

Board of Discipleship

Directing Board:

Don Jamison
Patricia Meadows
Justin White

Conference Awareness Team, Best Practices Group:

Ed Clever

Young Adult Council:

Jim Fry

Older Adult Council:

Francis Bertrand
Sara Hudson
Annie Leigh Pierce

Board of Global Ministries

Clergy
Judy Fender
Wayne Parsley
Rebecca Rumburg

Lay
Lauren Austin
Amy Johnson
Robin Lee
Erin McKenney
Colleen Meiser

Board of Higher Education Ministries

Herb Brynildsen
Ward Campbell

Deborah Lewis
Tracy Fitzsimmons
Elizabeth Ecklund

Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

Calvin Hughes
Bill Pike
Gene Tatum

Virginia United Methodist Communications

Clergy
Kenneth Armstrong
Marc Roberson
Jacob Sahms

Lay
Susan Petrey
Bill Sterling

Commission on Disabilities

Clergy
Doug Hollenbeck
Stephen Lee

Lay
Barbara Mason
Shaun Smith
Norma Turner

Committee on the Episcopacy.

Clergy
Rachel May
John B. Peters
Patricia L. Shipley
Elizabeth von Trapp Walker
Thomas M. Berlin,
(*Jurisdictional Committee*)

Lay
John P. Clarke
Ronald L. Hardman
Warren Hottle
Sung-Il Yoo
Anita Jackson
Warren Harper, *Conference Lay Leader*
Shirley Cauffman, *Chair*
(*Jurisdictional Committee*)

Equitable Compensation Commission

Clergy
Jason Bryant
Craig Newman

Lay
Herbert Goodman
Tom Neally
Benjamin Rivera

Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy

Clergy
Janet Grissett
Rita Kanten

Lay
Russell Busch
Jacqueline de Los Rios
Harold White Jr.

At Large
John Miller
Karen Sandoval

Council on Finance and Administration

Clergy
Will White

Lay
Betty Forbes
Lee Judy
Miran Kim
Tom Thompson

Board of Ordained Ministry
(*Nominated by the Bishop*)

Third Four-Year Term
Jonathan L. Bennett
Frances T. Cooper
Creed S. "Bud" Davis Jr.
Bradley S. Dulaney
J. Douglas Forrester
Youtha Hardman-Cromwell
Lorenzo D. Hill
Anita G. Jackson – *Laity*
Merribeth Neal – *Laity*
Edward R. Walker

Second Four-Year Term
Lynne Alley-Grant
Herbert Brynildsen

Robert E. Cooper
James G. Daniely
Travis L. DeLoach
Clara P. Gestwick
F. W. "Chip" Giessler
F. Elizabeth Givens
R. Douglas Gunsalus
Alexander B. Joyner
John J. Kelchner Jr.
Mary Ann Kral – *Laity*
Frank H. Lasley Jr. – *Laity*
Brenda L. Laws
Michele Manning retiring
Edward S. Martin Jr.
Christina R. McLain
William B. Montgomery
Douglas B. Paysour
Dawn Peck – *Laity*
Martha T. Reynolds – *Laity*
Matthew G. Smith
Moonsup "Paul" Song
Gayle Thornberry (FL)
Kenneth Stephen Waclo
Philip M. Waltz

First Four-Year Term

Timothy A. Beck
Tilden W. Bridges
Clarence R. Brown
Joseph J. Cailles
James H. Carey Jr.
Daniel E. Elmore
Jessica L. Fuller
Susan M. Hannah
Stephen D. Hay
Donna C. Holder
Rachel Hundley – *Laity*
Seonyoung Kim
Won Gyu Lee
Meredith McNabb
Gary C. Miller (AM)
Judy Moughon – *Laity*
Sue Parks – *Laity*
Susan M. Reaves
Brandon P. Robbins
Lydia E. Rodriguez
Ileana Rosario
Joan M. Rudisill
Tom Slippy – *Laity*
Linda Tompkins – *Laity*
Christy Haga Turner
Willie Weigand – *Laity*
Christian S. White, Jr.
Susie Wolf – *Laity*

United Methodist Foundation

Clergy
Michael Copeland
David Rash
William Ricketts

Lay
Robert Heely
Gus Paulette
Carson Saunders

Board of Pensions

Clergy
Cathy Abbott
Brenda Biler
Theresa McRoberts
Amos Rideout
Bruce Tuttle

Lay
Berkley Ashby
Dawn Chatin
Mike Earman
Mike Finnegan
Glen Getz
Terry Jenkins
Rebecca Lydens
Ken Peterson
Cathy Powers

Mary Stroh
Bill Talley

Committee on Rules

Lay
Terry Bain
Catherine Bolton
John Hill

Clergy
Pam Seeley
Jim Smith
Bart Weakly
Devin Livingston

Site Selection Committee

Lay
David Bailey

Clergy
Steve Hundley

Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Lay
Janae House
Shan Sixbey

Conference Trustees

Lay
Beth Godwin-Jones
B. Leigh Drewry

Committee on Minutes
(nominated by Cabinet)

Lay
Robert Stephens
Willie Weigand

Clergy
Joanna Deitz
Stan Thompson

Bishops' Foundation

Lay
Pat Wright

Clergy
David Rash
Patricia Meadows

Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corp.

Lay
Jim Branscome
Alton Echols
Robert Hinkle
Ronald Miller

Clergy
Dwayla Ferrell
Ernest T. Herndon

Society of St. Andrew
(nominated by Cabinet)

Gil Hanke
Nancy Hein
Jim Tongue

Preachers' Relief Society

Robert N. Baker III
Katherine Kidwell

Randolph College

Cathy Havener Greer
Carol J. Haley
Karen K. Patterson
David H. Street

Randolph-Macon Academy

Eric D. Anderson
Harry G. Austin III
Donna J. Bogart
Henry D. Light
John D. Stufflebeem

Randolph-Macon College

Bruce J. Adkins
William F. Carne
Cynthia H. Lee
Timothy P. O'Brien
Susan D. Schick
Lee B. Spencer Jr.
Kathryn V. Stottlemeyer
Sanjay Tandon

Virginia Wesleyan College

Alexandra G. Arias
Deborah Paxson
Joseph D. Carson

THE SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

By previous Annual Conference action, the following dates have been recommended for the site of Virginia Annual Conference:

Hampton	June 21-23, 2013
Hampton	June 20-22, 2014
Roanoke	June 19-21, 2015
Roanoke	June 17-19, 2016

The Site Selection Committee is charged with finding a location for Annual Conference which is set five years in advance. The recommendation of the Site Selection Committee is:

Hampton	June 16-18, 2017
Hampton	June 15-17, 2018

We have had a number of requests to look at holding Annual Conference in Richmond. While Richmond is more centrally located, there are challenges that would have to be met. Among these are: room rates, parking fees and spaces, number and proximity of hotels, meeting facility space needs and ease of movement for 3,000 people in downtown Richmond. While the Site Selection Committee is recommending Hampton, we would like to have the body indicate its preference between Richmond and Hampton.

As a reminder, in order for the Virginia Conference to recommend a site, we have the following criteria that need to be met:

- Meeting space and restaurants for 4,000 people;
- Parking spaces for 2,000 to 3,000 cars;
- 1,500 hotel rooms;
- Meeting space for Clergy Executive Session for 1,000 people;
- Meeting space for Laity Session for 1,000 people;
- Two banquet areas for 500 people;
- Break-out areas and display area of 30,000 square feet;
- Ease of moving participants between the various areas.

Comparison Chart for Richmond and Hampton

	HAMPTON	RICHMOND
SESSIONS	Hampton Roads Convention Center Halls B and C	Richmond Coliseum
PARKING	2,500 spaces Free at Convention Center; Free parking at all hotels	500 spaces free in Downtown Richmond close to Coliseum; Average of \$11 per day parking at hotels
SHUTTLES	Free shuttles to/from all hotels and Convention Center; Free city shuttle	\$5 per room night for shuttles to and from downtown hotels to/from Coliseum
LODGING	Hotel rates ranging from \$55 to \$169 per night plus tax; free breakfasts at all hotels	Hotel rates ranging from \$70 to \$155 per room per night plus tax; free breakfasts at some hotels
FOOD	Breakfast, lunch, dinner, banquets and concessions at Convention Ctr.; discounts at Peninsula Town Center restaurants	Breakfast, lunch, dinner and banquets at Marriott Hotel ballrooms; concessions at Coliseum; many restaurants downtown
WiFi	Free in all hotels and Convention Center	Free in some hotels; free in Coliseum
DISPLAYS	Convention Center Hall A	Coliseum Concourse
AMENITIES	Accessibility via I-64 and I-664; 50% discount on facility fee.	Accessibility via I-95 and I-64; More centrally located within state

As preparations are made for Annual Conference in Hampton next year, please be aware that the location of 2013 Annual Conference will be in the **Hampton Convention Center** rather than the Hampton Coliseum. This change in meeting venue will address accessibility concerns that have been raised by the Commission on Disabilities, as well as other members of the conference.

The Rev. Doug Geeting, President

THE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation is to support clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the Virginia Conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations.

The Equitable Compensation Commission continues to provide financial aid to those churches requiring supplementation to strengthen

their ministries in the communities in which they are located and to provide the minimum salary for the pastors. Salary and pension supplementation in the amount of \$410,571 (salary \$354,733 and pension \$125,040) was provided to 48 charges in 2011. A schedule of salary and pension supplementation appropriations for 2011 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the conference *Journal*.

There were three charges receiving salary and pension supplementation in 2011 that will not require assistance in 2012. These are Galloway (Arlington), Potts Valley (Staunton) and Asbury Memorial (Richmond) United Methodist churches. There are five charges receiving salary and pension supplementation in the first six months of 2012 that will not require assistance for the second half of 2012. These are Ridgeway (Danville), Hispanos Unidos (Roanoke), Amor y Paz (Winchester), Immanuel (Alexandria), and Cheriton (Eastern Shore) UMCs. These charges and their superintendents are commended for their success in providing a ministry in the communities they serve that has enabled them to grow spiritually in their stewardship.

District superintendents and charges setting salaries for 2012 that may require supplementation are advised that the “floor” must come from sources other than the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

The Conference Average Compensation (CAC) for 2013 is \$62,205 which is an increase of 0.1 percent over 2012. The commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2013 and recommends no change as outlined below for 2013.

The Rev. James C. Sprouse, Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2013 be \$550,000.
2. The Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2013 be:
 - a. Full Connection Pastors \$40,000
 - b. Provisional and Associate Members \$36,500
 - c. Local Pastors \$34,000
3. The Floor Schedule for 2011 be:
 - a. Full Connection Pastors \$28,000
 - b. Provisional and Associate Members \$25,600
 - c. Local Pastors \$24,000

The financial results 2009-2011 for the Equitable Compensation Fund are provided below:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
APPORTIONMENT RECEIPTS			
Total Apportionment	1,040,000	1,144,000	500,000
<u>Uncollected Apportionment</u>	<u>132,584</u>	<u>170,966</u>	<u>59,647</u>
Apportionments receipts	907,416	973,034	440,353
EXPENSES			
Grants	805,411	797,272	410,572
<u>Administrative</u>	<u>1,168</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>318</u>
Total expenses	806,579	797,832	410,890
RECEIPTS OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES	100,837	175,202	29,463

THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

In his book, *Journey in the Wilderness: New Life for Mainline Churches*, Dr. Gil Rendle notes that identity and purpose are two of the foundational questions facing the Church in a time of adaptive challenge. Across the connection of The United Methodist Church, questions of identity and purpose have been shaping denominational conversations. One outcome of these conversations has been an emphasis on Vital Congregations. Beginning with the summer of 2011, information about Vital Congregations began to be shared across the connection with a mandate for 4-year congregational goals to be set in areas of worship, professions of faith, small group participation, mission giving and mission involvement. In the Virginia Conference, the preparation of these goals has resulted in a question of whether Vital Congregations or “All Things New” will help the Virginia Conference to face the adaptive challenges that are before us.

As the Common Table for Church Vitality seeks to be faithful to its chartered purpose “to coordinate and prioritize the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference,” it has also considered this question. One outcome of this time of discernment has been a commitment to continue forward with the goal of changing the culture of the Virginia Conference to fruitfulness and multiplication as extended through the invitations of planting and harvesting in “All Things New.” Common Table’s response to this goal has resulted in an emphasis upon leadership development amid the realities of a reduction of the number of conference program ministry staff, a reduction in the number of conference boards and agencies, a reduction of the number of conference-funded program ministries from 83 in 2008 to 20 in 2012, and a reduction of \$749,411 in conference ministry and mission apportionments in 2012 as compared to 2009. In the midst of this season of pruning, ministries and initiatives to support local congregations have been planted and cultivated to help congregations respond faithfully to the quadrennial goals they establish through Vital Congregations. A second outcome of this discernment process has been the formation of a Common Table Evaluation Task Force that will review the identity and purpose of Common Table in the current reality of the Virginia Conference. This task force will report its results to Common Table for presentation of possible recommendations to the 2013 Annual Conference.

There have been two changes in the Connectional Ministries staff since the last Annual Conference as the Rev. Derrick Parson replaced Angie Williams as director of Ministries with Young People and Cathryn Wooton replaced Debbie Duty as Graphic Designer/Production Coordinator. Angie was in ministry with young people across the Virginia Conference for more than seven years. We express gratitude for Angie’s ministry and influence upon the lives of young people across the conference as she accepted staffing responsibilities for children, youth, young adults and higher education ministries during the staff restructuring of 2009. Debbie was in ministry through the Communications Office for more than 25 years. We express gratitude for Debbie’s ministry and passion for the ministries of small membership congregations in our conference.

The Common Table also expresses appreciation to the faithful ministry of all the Connectional Ministries staff for their tireless work in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Marc Brown, Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the following recommendation by the following boards:

- a) By the Board of Discipleship regarding the observance and special offering for Christian Education Sunday;
- b) By the Board of Discipleship regarding the recommendation and endorsement of Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship;
- c) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding the continuation of Conference Relationship Agreements;
- d) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, United Methodist Family Services and Virginia United Methodist Homes.
- e) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding Advance Special Offerings.
- f) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding Conference Policies for Virginia Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 1

“Challenge for the Africa University Endowment Fund”

Whereas approximately 4,000 students have graduated from Africa University in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, since it opened in the spring of 1994. The first graduation included 18 graduates in Agriculture and Natural Resources, and nine students in Theology;

Whereas recognizing that by the turn of this century, fully one-fifth of the world’s population will live in Africa, the University believes its purpose is to help African Christians train leaders for their churches and societies;

Whereas today Africa University has 1,500 students. These students choose one of six undergraduate or five postgraduate programs.

The Management & Administration and Humanities & Social Sciences programs have the most students. Nearly 100 students are currently enrolled in the Health Sciences area. Africa University has 135 faculty members and, additionally, multiple permanent and visiting lecturers;

Whereas students come from 29 countries across the continent of Africa. The official language at Africa University is English, which is also the official language of Zimbabwe. On campus, you find similarities to the American university experience: dormitories, staff housing, a student health center, a student union, dining hall and educational buildings. Prominently placed on campus are the Jokomo/Yamada Library and the Kwang Lim Chapel. You would also find a building where students are enrolled in one of the university’s newest programs of study, the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance program;

Whereas because Africa University is a young university, its endowment is limited and needs support for university stability and long term viability;

Therefore, be it resolved that the churches of the Virginia Annual Conference be challenged to raise \$1 million over the next three years solely for the support of the Africa University Endowment Fund (World Service Special Gift #03-01-88).

The goal would be for us to give \$1 per member of the conference per year. The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hundley would be appointed by the Annual Conference to lead the effort and no conference funding would be required.

The 2013, 2014 and 2015 Annual Conference sessions will receive a report as to the progress of this challenge.

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Hundley

RESOLUTION 2

“A Call for a Continued Moratorium on Uranium Mining and Milling in Virginia “

The Holy Bible is clear that we are to be good stewards of creation and not pollute our neighborhoods or the planet, or abuse the poor. [Genesis 2:15, Isaiah 24, Jeremiah 4:2,7, Micah 6:6-8 and Matthew 22:36-40]

Uranium mining and milling in Virginia would threaten the land, water, and health of Virginians for generations to come, especially that of communities near the mine site. The threats from proposals to mine and mill uranium in Virginia were thoroughly debated by the people of our state in the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1981, The Virginia Annual Conference passed a resolution calling on the Virginia General Assembly to impose a statewide moratorium on uranium mining and milling in the Commonwealth. The General Assembly passed legislation mandating a moratorium in 1982.

Now the possibility of uranium mining and milling is being debated anew. We believe that we should pursue other ways of supplying our energy needs.

In 2008, The United Methodist Church’s General Conference called for an end to uranium mining and milling in its resolution on “Energy” and recommended that the greatest efforts should be devoted to conservation and renewable energy.

The Virginia Annual Conference in 2008 voted that the major effort in energy policy should be in supporting energy conservation and renewable energy. The average Virginia electricity consumer is currently using nearly 14,500 kW of electricity a year. This is 2,000 kW more than the national average. Greater electricity conservation could reduce the need for more capacity from nuclear and other nonrenewable sources.

The Virginia Conference has installed solar panels on the conference center, and is working with its churches through the “Green Church Initiative” to model energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources. More than 100 Virginia United Methodist congregations now have “green” teams in their churches that are encouraging energy conservation measures.

The 2008 session of the General Assembly defeated a bill which would have allowed the drafting of regulations for uranium mining and milling. Nevertheless, despite this vote, later in 2008 the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission voted funds for a study of the feasibility of uranium mining and milling in Virginia. Governor Gov. Bob McDonnell has directed state officials to conduct a review of uranium mining, but his review committee, while accepting public comments, has declined to hold public meetings. The group will report to the Governor in late 2012.

Uranium has never been mined in the eastern U.S., and research shows that it has never been safely done anywhere in the world in a humid climate such as ours, with our heavy rains and hurricanes. In addition, many of the more than 4,000 mine sites in the Western United States have been designated Superfund sites by the EPA.

If the moratorium were lifted, it would permit mining of uranium anywhere in Virginia. Uranium-bearing rock stretches from Fairfax County in Northern Virginia to the North Carolina border. In the 1980’s, uranium leases were filed on thousands of acres of land in Virginia counties stretching along the Piedmont from Fauquier to Pittsylvania.

The possibility of lifting the ban has prompted water utilities to commission reports on the potential threat to their drinking water. A Virginia Beach study found that even a small breach in mine waste ponds or containers could contaminate its drinking water. Radioactive water from the Coles Hill (Pittsylvania County) site could reach residents of Southside Virginia, Hampton Roads, and North Carolina. A Fairfax County study found that mining in a site in Northern Virginia would pollute the Occoquan River watershed and the Potomac River watershed, making it impossible for the County to provide safe drinking water from existing reservoirs.

Serious uranium mining site problems exist in many parts of the world. Uranium mining and milling sites in Australia, France, Germany,

the Czech Republic and many other countries have been linked to damage to human health and the environment. Concern in the Western United States about the link between leukemia and other cancers and uranium mill tailings propelled the passage of legislation requiring the Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation Program (UMTRA). This UMTRA program focused specifically on uranium tailings piles in sites mainly in the central western states. In many places, tailings had been placed in unbounded or poorly bounded piles on level to gently sloping ground. Several piles were within city limits and along or close to riverbanks. Dust dispersion of the tailings, and re-use by the community as construction sand and fill, gave rise to significant health risks.

There is no compelling reason for uranium mining in Virginia ever to begin, much less lead to the kinds of problems found among the thousands of mining sites in the West and around the world. A major interdisciplinary study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has found that there is no shortage of uranium in the U.S., and the U.S. has large stockpiles of enriched uranium, which can be down-blended for uses other than in nuclear weapons.

Even the political leaders of Western states that have long benefited from uranium mining jobs now view most of the jobs created as being those needed to clean up pollution from the mines, and are opposing expansion of mines in the West. U. S. Interior Secretary Salazar has proposed a 20-year moratorium on new mines in watersheds near the Grand Canyon. In the very center of uranium mining in the West, tourism is now worth more than mines. Likewise, tourism and other industries in Virginia could lose more jobs than the mines would provide.

In the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, paragraph 160, I, “The Natural World”, we read: Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.

Therefore,

Let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in our economic, political, social and technological lifestyle to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world, leading to a high quality of life for all of God’s creation.

We call upon Gov. McDonnell and the members of the Virginia General Assembly to maintain the moratorium prohibiting any mining or milling of uranium in Virginia, as there is no evidence since 1982 of uranium mining and milling having been done safely in areas as humid as is Virginia. We call for any state government-sponsored decision making meetings devoted to lifting the moratorium to be open hearings that include public citizen testimony.

Submitted by Virginia Annual Conference Board of Church and Society and Caretakers of God’s Creation Ministry. Contacts: Jaydee Hanson, Chair, Protecting God’s Planet subcommittee of Board of Church and Society, and member, Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington, (703) 241-8825, or Eloise Folkers Nemon, member, Watson Memorial United Methodist Church, Chatham [Danville], (434) 432-4381

Footnotes:

1 Note that this is a revision of the 2011 resolution that was given to the Board of Church and Society for its review when the Annual Conference was unable to complete its votes on all resolutions.

2 See Energy Policy Resolution in the 2008 United Methodist Church, *The Book of Resolutions* available at: <www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=2954181&ct=4207005¬oc=1>.

3 U.S. Per Capita Electricity Use by State In 2010 <http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/us_per_capita_electricity-2010.html>

4 Study group will take comments on uranium, but no public hearings, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Mar. 7, 2012 <www2.timesdispatch.com/news/virginia-politics/2012/mar/07/study-group-will-take-comments-on-uranium-no-publi-ar-1747404/>.

5 See EPA (2006), Geographic Analysis of the Location of Uranium Mines, available at <www.epa.gov/radiation/docs/tenorm/402-r-08-005-volii/402-r-08-005-v2-ch2.pdf>

6 International Atomic Energy Agency, 2004, Long-term stabilization of uranium mill tailings sites, available at: <www.epa.gov/radiation/docs/neshaps/subpart-w/historical-rulemakings/iaea-ur-mill-tailings.pdf> See page 108 and the next 200 pages for case studies on the problems with uranium mining and mill tailings in Brazil, China, Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Poland, Canada, France and the US.

7 Matthew, M.L., (1985) “The Current Status of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Actions Project”, 7th Symp. on Management of Uranium Mill Tailings, Low-Level Waste and Hazardous Waste, Fort Collins, Colo., February, 1985, Civil Engineering Department, Colorado State University.

8 MIT (2010) *The Future of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle*, available at <http://web.mit.edu/mitei/docs/spotlights/nuclear-fuel-cycle.pdf>.

9 See for example Arizona State Rep.Chabin’s comments at:<www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2011/02/27/20110227c-habin-mining-28.html>.

10 *2008 Book of Discipline*.

RESOLUTION 3

“Eliminate the Death Penalty”

Whereas, scripture affirms that all people are created in the image of God (Gen 1.26-28);

Whereas, our United Methodist “Social Principles” state that “all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable. When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person’s life ends.”

Whereas, the “Social Principles” further states that “We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings.”

Whereas on the only occasion where Jesus was confronted with the issue of the death penalty (the story about the woman alleged to have been caught in adultery, John 8:3-12), he rebuked her accusers, saying “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Whereas the United States is the only western industrial democracy that continues to impose the death penalty;

Whereas in 2000 the Virginia Annual Conference adopted a resolution “Calling for A Moratorium on the Death Penalty”;

Whereas in 2002 the Virginia Annual Conference adopted a resolution “Calling for Moving Forward with Study and Action on the Death Penalty”;

Whereas the alleged deterrent value of the death penalty is not supported by empirical evidence;

Whereas after working at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections for over 32 years, including serving as Director 2001-2010, during which he observed the execution of 33 persons, now retired Terry Collins recently called for removal of the death penalty which he characterized as “often inefficient,” “always time-consuming” and “not a fiscally responsible policy” since it is more expensive than life

imprisonment without parole which “offers justice that is swift, certain, effectively severe and perhaps more sensitive to the needs of healing victims’ families” who can then achieve closure and no longer be faced with the painful task of attending appeals hearings;

Whereas on January 11, 2011, the Illinois Legislature voted to repeal the state’s death penalty and apply remaining funds in the Capital Litigation Trust Fund toward murder victims’ services and law enforcement; the *Chicago Tribune* on March 2, 2011 reversed years of editorial support for capital punishment and called for abolishing the death penalty in Illinois, and on March 9, 2011, Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation repealing the death penalty in Illinois, stating that after talking with people on both sides of the issues – prosecutors, judges, elected officials, religious leaders, families of murder victims, people on death row who were exonerated and ordinary citizens – “I have concluded that our system of imposing the death penalty is inherently flawed. The evidence presented to me by former prosecutors and justices with decades of experience in the criminal justice system has convinced me that it is impossible to devise a system that is consistent, that is free of discrimination on the basis of race, geography or economic circumstances, that always gets it right.”

Whereas since 1973 a total of 140 persons have been released from death row on evidence of their innocence, including one in Virginia, strongly reminding us of the danger of committing the irreversible wrong of killing an innocent person;

Whereas a 2010 poll clearly found that a majority of 61 percent “would choose a punishment other than the death penalty for murder, including life with no possibility of parole and restitution to the victim’s family (39 percent), life with no possibility of parole (13 percent), or life with the possibility of parole (9 percent).”

Whereas police chiefs have ranked the death penalty last when presented with a list of ways to reduce violent crime and considered the death penalty to be the least efficient use of taxpayers’ money, and

Whereas life without parole provides the safety and security society seeks in capital cases,

Be it hereby resolved that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Affirms the historic position of The United Methodist Church which states that “we oppose capital punishment and urge its elimination from all criminal codes.”

2. Calls for elimination of the death penalty in Virginia.

3. Requests the Governor and members of the General Assembly to prepare and enact legislation that will eliminate the death penalty in the Commonwealth.

4. Requests Bishop Kammerer or her successor to invite other religious bodies and non-government organizations to join us in actively seeking the elimination of the death penalty in Virginia.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. John Copenhaver on behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the United Methodist Federation for Social Action

Footnotes:

1. ¶ 164.V.G, “Social Principles,” *2008 Book of Discipline*.

2. ¶ 164.V.G, “Social Principles,” *2008 Book of Discipline*.

3. Although the South accounted for 80 percent of all executions in the U.S. in 2010, it nevertheless had the highest murder rate of 5.6 per 100,000; conversely, the Northeast, with less than 1 percent of all executions, tied with the West for the lowest murder rate of 4.2 per 100,000. Death Penalty Information Center “Fact Sheet” (Oct. 4, 2011).

4. Terry Collins, “Justice system can be improved by removing ultimate penalty,” Columbus Dispatch, Jan. 25, 2011.

5. Death Penalty Information Center, “Press Release” (Feb. 6, 2011).

6. Editorial, *Chicago Tribune*, (Feb. 3, 2011). <www.chicagotribune.com> (Feb. 14, 2011).

7. “Statement from Gov.Pat Quinn on Senate Bill 3539” < www.deathpenaltyinfor.org/ documents/ ILGovernorStatement.pdf> (Oct. 4, 2011).

8. Death Penalty Information Center “Fact Sheet” (Feb. 6,2012)

9. Death Penalty Information Center “Fact Sheet” (Feb. 6,2012)

10. Death Penalty Information Center “Fact Sheet” (Feb. 6,2012).

11. ¶ 164.V.G, “Social Principles,” *2008 Book of Discipline*.

RESOLUTION 4

End Life-Long Stigmatization

The gospel calls us to be healers, reconcilers and peacemakers amid the brokenness, violence and vengeance of our world. We are empowered to do this by God’s grace operating in us – grace which we come to understand through personal experience and parables such as the one about the unmerciful servant where Jesus taught that we are to forgive those who sin against us not just seven times but seventy times seven (Matthew 18:22) – and allow God’s unlimited grace to become continually manifest in and through us.

Our volunteers seeking to help persons wanting to obtain restoration of their voting rights have found that among those most in need of this healing grace in our time are ex-offenders who, even after satisfactorily completing all court-imposed punishment for a felony conviction and who have gainful employment as their top priority, are stigmatized for life as ‘felons’, find it almost impossible to obtain gainful employment, support their families and become productive members of society. As a result, such persons often become repeat offenders.

In 2010, Gov. Bob McDonnell established a Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative which was designed to increase community safety, reduce recidivism, and improve integration and outcome for ex-offenders returning to their communities by encouraging collaborative strategies among state, local and non-profit agencies with regard to housing, treatment, education and job-training.

This has been a welcome initiative in response to a long-standing need. Now in its early stages, this program is currently concentrated on a few selected regions, with resources focused on ex-offenders viewed at “high risk for victimizing again.” As such, it currently addresses the needs of only a limited number of the approximately 13,000 ex-offenders released by the state each year but holds much promise for helping to produce better outcomes for ex-offenders re-entering society.

However, it needs to also be noted that this Initiative does not attempt to address the needs of the approximately 300,000 other Virginia ex-offenders who have completed all court-imposed punishment and already live in our communities but nevertheless suffer life-long stigmatization as ‘felons’ – the majority of whom committed only non-violent crimes many years ago due to a mistake in their youthful judgments and a criminal justice system that disproportionately impacts minorities and the poor.

This life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders has been exacerbated over recent decades by enactment of harsh sentencing laws, including mandatory minimum sentences that bar judges from considering individual circumstances, criminalize non-violent behavior that does no harm to others, such as simple drug possession, and increase the tax burden on Virginia taxpayers. The Department of Corrections reports that in 2010 there were approximately 1890 persons in Virginia’s prisons for drug possession. At an annual cost of approximately \$25,000 each, this means that Virginia has been spending over \$47 million annually to lock up nonviolent low-level offenders who had caused no harm to others when public safety may have been equally served by less costly alternatives, such as misdemeanor charges and drug treatment courts, that would not have stigmatized these persons for life as ‘felons.’

While Virginia currently has a process by which the governor can restore voting rights and certain other rights to eligible ex-offenders, this

process benefits only 3,000-4,000 persons annually and does not address the problem of life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders. However, it can be reasonably argued that persons deemed satisfactorily rehabilitated to have their rights restored (based on having ‘paid their dues to society’ by satisfactory completion of all court-imposed punishment, including prison time, parole, probation, payment of court fees and restitution, plus good behavior over a waiting period of two to five years) ought to no longer bear the burden of life-long stigmatization as ex-offenders.

We and other Virginians have for too long acquiesced to this practice of continued punishment of former offenders through life-long stigmatization – which effectively bars most of them from gainful employment and makes it impossible for them to support their families and become integrated as productive members of society. By such neglect we become participants in perpetuating a cycle of recidivism and repeated incarceration involving more victims, more human suffering and higher costs to taxpayers.

In view of the above, *it is hereby resolved* that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Commends Gov. McDonnell for establishing the Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative and urge its expansion to serve all regions of Virginia.
2. Requests that the governor, as the only person currently authorized to restore voting rights to ex-offenders, when restoring rights to nonviolent ex-offenders also issue a certificate of rehabilitation (or an equivalent certification) on the rationale that an ex-offender considered sufficiently rehabilitated to have his or her rights restored should also be considered sufficiently rehabilitated to be eligible for gainful employment when he or she has the relevant skills or willingness to learn such skills in on the job training available to other applicants.
3. Urges our members of the U.S. Congress and the Virginia General Assembly to help curtail life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders by (a) moving nonviolent, low level offenses that do no harm to others, such as simple drug possession, from the list of offenses classified as felonies to misdemeanors (which are punishable by fine and up to a year in jail but no imprisonment), and (b) raising the threshold for felony conviction in Virginia to a significantly higher value than the current \$200 which has remained unchanged since set in 1980.
4. While the above actions would benefit a limited number of ex-offenders and reduce future felonization, these actions alone would do little to address the problem of life-long stigmatization suffered by the approximately 300,000 ex-offenders who have ‘paid their dues to society’ and now live in our communities. We therefore request our bishop to contact other faith leaders in Virginia with the objective of establishing a commission to find ways to help overcome the practice of life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders and thereby help to transform our culture toward one where ex-offenders are extended grace, re-claimed and helped to become productive members of society. This commission should (a) include leaders from different faith traditions, ex-offenders, persons with experience in government, and representatives from non-profit organizations, and (b) establish a plan of work, seek funding from its member bodies and other sources as may be deemed appropriate, and issue progress reports at least annually to organizations and agencies represented by its members.
5. We call upon Virginia United Methodists to pray and become more informed about the problem of life-long stigmatization faced by persons convicted for a felony, find ways to support families of those in prison and their victims, be willing to serve as mentors to those returning to society, support programs that will help them become productive citizens, and invite them to our churches. Additionally, to help monitor progress in addressing this concern, we direct the Common Table to arrange for the appropriate conference body to formulate a question to be asked at each annual Charge Conference along the following lines: What is this congregation doing to reach out to persons in prison, their families and their victims, and to end life-long stigmatization of persons who have satisfactorily completed all court imposed punishment for the offense for which they were convicted?

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Hunter Mabry on behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action

RESOLUTION 5

“On Being Our Brother’s Keeper”

When a lawyer sought to interrogate Jesus about what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus confirmed that loving one’s “neighbor as yourself” is part of the greatest commandment, second only to loving God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind (Lk10:25-28).

Upon being filled with the Holy Spirit, the early disciples carried this teaching to its logical end, holding all things in common, selling their possessions and distributing the proceeds to all, “as any had need” (Acts 2:45).

In his counsel to “gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can,” John Wesley endorsed the enterprising spirit but tempered it with the obligation to “Render unto God – not a tenth, not a third, not half, but all that is God’s,” to use all we have as God directs. Wesley exemplified this in his own life, living simply, giving away his surplus money to charity to meet the needs of others, never having more than 100 pounds at any time, and preaching that Christians should consider themselves members of the poor. When he died in 1791 he left behind only a few miscellaneous coins and two silver spoons.

He practiced being his “brother’s keeper.” While that included acts of charity, it also included much more: he supported loan funds to help people escape debt, buy tools and start employment producing enterprises; he criticized the government for not collecting taxes due from the wealthy and tax evaders, and on many occasions he called for social reform.

Yet, in today’s world, many protest. Like Cain, when asked by God where his brother Abel was, many today also protest, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen 4:9). The ultra-rich grow richer while the middle class falls further behind and a record number live in poverty. Many seem to disregard, reject or minimize the idea that we are our “brother’s keeper.”

This reality is reflected in the growing inequality in our society. A 2011 study by the Economic Policy Institute found that the share of wealth held by the richest 20 percent of American households has increased to 87.2 percent, while the share held by the remaining 80 percent has decreased to 12.8 percent of all wealth. The richest 1 percent of all U.S. households, with 35.6 percent of all wealth, had a net worth 225 greater than the median household net worth – the highest on record – while the share of households having zero or negative net worth had increased to approximately one out of four households; among black households the median net worth had fallen to \$2,200, the lowest ever recorded, while the median net worth among white households was \$97,900. Approximately 80 percent of all stock was owned by the top 10 percent of all U.S. households, while over half of all households owned no stocks at all – either directly or indirectly through mutual or retirement funds.

A major factor contributing to this skepticism about being our “brother’s keeper,” and to the extreme economic inequality that weakens our society, are public policies that favor the wealthy. A major example is the tax rate on investment income (on capital gains and dividends) which is capped at 15 percent, and which is exempt from payroll taxes paid on earned income to support Social Security and Medicare. As a result, “anyone making more than \$34,500 a year in wages and salaries is taxed at a higher rate than a billionaire is taxed on untold millions in capital gains.” Most capital gains go to those who are already wealthy: approximately 50 percent of all capital gains go to the top one-tenth of one percent; 75 percent go to the top one percent. In 2008, the 400 richest taxpayers received 60 percent of their income from capital gains and only 8 percent from salaries and wages.

It has been estimated that if the ultra-rich paid taxes on their investment income at the same rate that most Americans pay on their earned income (from salaries and wages), this would provide an additional \$50 billion in public revenue annually. But with their huge investment income taxes capped at 15 percent and exempt from payroll taxes, the ultra-rich get richer while the middle class and the poor fall further behind and pay a disproportionate share of the total tax revenue needed to collectively be our “brother’s keeper,” by providing federal,

state and local public services such as police and fire protection, schools, libraries, highways and other transportation systems, and other infrastructure needed for a sound economy and flourishing democracy.

Such tax policies are unfair and incompatible with the basic biblical and Wesleyan principle that we are all called to be our “brother’s keeper.” Everyone has the responsibility of contributing their fair share toward the common good and collectively being our “brother’s keeper.”

In view of such concerns, the initial draft of this resolution called for tax reform that would “apply the same tax rate on investment income as on ordinary income from wages and salaries on which most citizens depend.” When that draft was circulated in the spirit of “holy conferencing” to clergy and laity for comments and suggestions, very diverse comments were received – from enthusiastic endorsement to strong opposition. Between these two extremes, others raised thoughtful and serious concerns – such as: What would be the impact on the ‘falling behind’ middle class that depends on investment income for retirement? Are we competent to address tax policy? Would this issue cause divisions in our churches which consist of persons of different political persuasions? What is the proper role of the church, government and individual Christians when dealing with such issues? Certainly these are relevant questions for which answers are needed to help us act responsibly.

Therefore, in view of the above, the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby:

1. Reaffirms our own commitment to the biblical and Wesleyan principle that we are called to be our brother’s keeper, our sister’s keeper, keeper of all of God’s children.
2. Requests the Board of Church and Society to identify, or develop, and make available to our churches, study materials that will help our members to examine (1) the relationship between Christian faith and economic life; (2) the role of the church, government and individual Christians in dealing with economic issues, and (3) the implications of these for the church’s witness to being our brother’s keeper, our sister’s keeper, keeper of all of God’s children.
3. Encourages our congregations, and groups within our congregations such as church school classes, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Youth, to engage in serious study and prayerful discernment about the relationship between a deep personal Christian faith, the need for greater economic justice in society, and the formation of responsible public policy.

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Hunter Mabry

Footnotes:

1. John Wesley, “The Use of Money” (Sermon 50). <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umhistory/wesley/sermons/50/>
2. Ronald H. Stone, *John Wesley’s Life and Ethics* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001), 169, 200, 226.
3. “The State of Working America’s Wealth, 2011”, Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper 292. www.epi.org (28Feb2012).
4. Steven Mufson and Jia Lynn Yang, *ACapital gains tax rates benefiting wealthy feed growing gap between rich and poor*, @ Washington Post, (11Sept2011) www.washingtonpost.com (12Dec2011).

Citizens for Tax Justice. www.ctj.org (31Jan2012).

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The presence of the Historical Society fulfills the Disciplinary mandate that each annual conference have a commission on archives and history. Virginia United Methodists benefit from the society’s oversight of the conference archives, under the stewardship of archivist Stephanie Davis, and from the opportunity to subscribe to Heritage, the Society’s historical journal, edited by L. Boyd Lucas.

Society programming also seeks to function as a resource, including a fall trip to the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation sites and a forthcoming October presentation on Francis Asbury, whose career links him to the Edward Dromgoole house, one of the Old Brunswick preservation commitments. Two centuries after Asbury’s ministry we continue to take inspiration from persons sent to the Old Dominion by John Wesley to establish new faith communities.

The following lay and clergy representative have been endorsed by the Virginia Conference Historical Society and are presented to the Annual Conference for election as trustees for 2012-13: Clergy: Roger C. Balcom, Paul Allen Beighley III, Brenda J. Biler, Steve Bradley, Michael Browder, Carlton D. Casey, Robert T. Casey, Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes Jr., James M. John, John T. Martin Jr., Reginald H. Potts III, Henry Riley, Karen Sandoval, Lee B. Sheaffer, Cheryl Simmons, Carl O. Stewart, Elizabeth W. Taylor, Kenneth S. Waclo, Roy P. White, Raymond F. Wrenn, Elizabeth A. S. Wright, Gary A. Ziegler.

Lay: Beatrice Bennett, Marcella Bullock, Neill Caldwell, T. Harold Crowder Jr., Thelma Crowder, Jesse H. Fanshaw III, Queen Green, Deedie Kagey, June Landrum, L. Boyd Lucas, Stephen Mansfield, Harold “Rockie” McKee, Catherine D. Morgan, Brenda NeSmith, William Olson, Laurie Preston, Patti B. Russell, Leona Salter, Ann P. Shappell, Darrell F. Shepherd, Frank Vetting, James Wall, Charles Williams.

The Historical Society has created three foundations which provide preservation and interpretation of sites and structures significant for Virginia and American United Methodism. The foundations and the scope of their efforts are explained as follows:

Dr. Stephen Mansfield, President

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation

Since last year, much has been accomplished by the Board of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation in the effort to preserve three major properties, while communicating the importance of holding on to the fragile remnants of a rich history for future generations to enjoy.

The first property is the Ebenezer Academy, quite possibly the first Methodist school in America, established by Bishop Francis Asbury and local leaders near today’s small town of Warfield. Access to the site has been accomplished by means of a new right of way and an improved road made possible by the Buck Johnson Memorial Fund. The foundation and an impressive obelisk or “ebenezer” are all that remain of the original school. Plans are underway to provide informational signs at the site, telling the history and importance of this first effort to provide education for frontier people.

Another significant project of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation is the preservation and possible restoration of the Rev. Edward Dromgoole home near the village of Valentines. A recent report to the board following a visit to the 15-acre site by Dr. Camille Wells, a professor in the History Department at the College of William & Mary, specializing in colonial and archeological history, reinforced the opinion that the house is a rare treasure of late 18th c. architecture, remarkably large, extremely well built and fairly well preserved considering the neglect it has suffered over the past few decades. It is the only authentic Methodist circuit rider home within the bounds of the Virginia Conference and has a rich history, in part because Bishop Asbury spent significant time there, and also because of the gifted family of Dromgooles who lived there.

During the past year dense growth around the house was cleared and a French drain installed to draw water away from the foundation of the house. This effort succeeded not only in helping to dry the ground, but in making it easier to see several outbuildings and other foundation structures more clearly. It is hoped that serious archeological work can be done alongside important structural enhancements intended to conserve and preserve both land and dwelling.

The third project is the 12.25-acre Old Randolph-Macon College site in Boydton, containing the original main building and the Helensha/Hatch Cottage, dating from 1831-32. Founded in 1830, Randolph-Macon is America’s oldest continuously operating Methodist College. When the college was moved to Ashland in 1868, the facility became the home of The Boydton Institute, a normal school for former slaves that produced many important leaders over a fifty-year period.

Recent actions of the Board during the past year included writing and adopting new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and the submitting an application to the Internal Revenue Service to become designated as a 501c3 organization to enable the solicitation of donations for preservation and restoration. White papers prepared for each of the three projects, stating purpose and long-term goals, were approved by Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation directors at their Feb. 25, meeting to guide future efforts of the organization.

The foundation is grateful for the interest and support of the Virginia Conference in its effort to preserve the rich heritage that exists within the bounds of the original Brunswick Circuit, the longest continuing circuit in American Methodism.

The Rev. John T. Martin Jr., President

The Old Stone Church Foundation

The Old Stone Church Foundation was incorporated in 1974. The foundation’s purpose is dedicated to preserving, restoring, maintaining, promoting and interpreting the site of the Old Stone Church and cemetery at the corner of Cornwall and Liberty Streets in Leesburg.

The annual membership meeting of the foundation was held Sept. 10, 2011 on the Old Stone Church/ Cemetery site. A beautiful dedication ceremony for the recently installed prayer/memorial garden followed the annual meeting. The guest speaker was Dr. Steve Mansfield, president of the Virginia Historical Society, parent organization for the foundation. A reception and fellowship followed the dedication ceremony.

The prayer/memorial garden is positioned at the western portion of the cemetery and is constructed with beautiful bricks that were purchased by members and others in memory/honor. We continue to be grateful for the support of those who maintain their membership in the Old Stone Church Foundation and for the solid support of the prayer/memorial garden project.

Membership is open to all who share its purposes and there is still space and opportunity to purchase a brick for the garden. Write to P.O. Box 426, Leesburg, VA 20178-0426.

Charles E. Williams, President

The William Watters Foundation

The William Watters Foundation was established by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1996 to protect and preserve the small Adams-Wren-Watters Cemetery where William Watters, the first American-born itinerant Methodist minister, and his wife are buried.

The cemetery, a circular plot 90 feet in diameter and one-quarter acre in area, with access to Linway Terrace [off Old Dominion Drive] in McLean, has been registered as the United Methodist Historical site # 7 since 1970. Three bronze plaques were dedicated on May 24, 2011. One plaque is a duplicate of the fading inscriptions on the monument, the second supplies brief information on his work and the third lists the names of known persons buried in the cemetery.

For additional information, write The William Watters Foundation, PO Box 6144, McLean, VA 22106-6144.

E. Jean Balcom, President

THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Church Development Team has worked with local, district and conference leadership to be a catalyst in establishing new faith communities and supporting existing local church’s efforts to be fruitful and multiplying.

The New Faith Community subgroup of the Church Development Team continues to help create a culture of excellence in the area of new faith community development in our conference. This past year we have continued to resource and encourage recently initiated new faith communities, local churches, district Boards of Mission and their equivalents, the Cabinet and others in our conference to live out the “All Things New” strategy through the planting of new faith communities.

The New Faith Community subgroup is eager to work with local churches and groups of local churches who are discerning where, when and how to give birth to a new faith community. We continue to be available to work with district Boards of Mission or their equivalents in the new faith community discernment process. With the culmination of the first 5 Talent Academy we optimistically anticipate an increase in the number of existing churches that desire to plant or partner with others to plant a new faith community.

In addition to resourcing our conference in the area of new faith community development, the New Faith Community subgroup also receives, reviews and makes recommendations to the Church Development Team and the Common Table regarding funding for new faith community development proposals. This year we evaluated one proposal.

The Equipping Planter subgroup works to have dialog with those who might consider becoming planters, to help them discern their gifts and God’s call about church planting, and to provide training to those who are appointed to plant new faith communities. The New Church Leadership Institute was held in Baltimore in November, where three people from the Virginia Conference began to explore whether God might be calling them to plant a new faith community. Four of these completed their follow up interviews early this year, to further their discernment process. We provided Boot Camp training for pastors of new faith communities in August, 2011, attended by seven people from the Virginia Conference. Coaches were provided for planters of new faith communities. Most recently, we began teams of prayer support for planters and their new faith communities led by the Rev. Beth Anderson.

This has been another great year for the 5 Talent Academy. The vision has always been to help Virginia Conference congregations to take the next step in ministry. We encourage the Church to deliberately invest our congregations in mission and ministry so that in accordance with the familiar parable, we may be multiplied for kingdom use.

This year we have celebrated two powerful events. In our semester on evangelism, we heard stories from five Virginia congregations who had seen God doing notable things in their churches around faith sharing. Each presentation reminded us of the possibilities in all our congregations, independent of size or circumstance. In addition, as we entered our semester on church planting, we had the privilege of hearing from Bishop Pereira of the Cuban Methodist Church. The 5 Talent Academy received a picture of what God is doing in Cuba and what our God can still do in Virginia!

This semester marks the end of our first three years of the 5 Talent Academy. God has blessed us abundantly. Our prayer is now that another 100 Virginia Conference churches will sign up for these next three! Thank you for all the great support and we continue to pray that God will call many congregations forth for our future work together!

A special thanks to Pat Hickman and Mark Ogren for all their support and commitment to make “All Things New” in the Virginia Conference.

The Rev. M. Wayne Snead, Chair

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Campus ministry in the Virginia Conference is a dynamic, diverse demonstration of God’s creative and inviting love. It is with great honor that I present this report to the 2012 Annual Conference.

After two years of discernment and implementation planning, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries has launched a new system of ministry leadership and measurement, including the ongoing work of a very aggressive and thorough Property Task Force, which is assessing the effective use of property for ministry across our campuses.

Our board itself has been re-tooled and is a smaller, more efficient leadership team. The former Campus Ministry Implementation Team has handed over the change process to the board. To date, we are pleased to report that change continues and improvements are evident. Most significantly we are pleased to see evidence of a shift from the former culture of judgment to a more healthy culture of improvement in campus ministry in Virginia.

I send a huge “thank you” to our campus ministers, including the leaders of our ecumenical ministries, the directors of our Wesley Foundations and the chaplains at our affiliated schools, colleges and universities. These dedicated campus servants have patiently and diligently embraced change, including a cautious but eager willingness to participate in our new metrics system to report progress toward accomplishing our vision. I also thank the district superintendents, who have willingly embraced a new supervisory role over our campus ministries. And finally, I thank all members of our newly re-tooled board. These individuals are smart, dedicated and creative leaders who have stayed the course of change over these past three years.

Our change ministry is not complete. In fact, effective change is inherently an ongoing process. We acknowledge that we have not yet fully implemented every aspect of change we seek. The process will continue in the coming months as we take better advantage of our new technology and participate together in more training.

Most significantly we are hopeful that by the end of this calendar year will have settled into a rhythm of (holy) conversations about our data – conversations that encourage a healthy examination of our data – together – with a view toward improving our ministry effectiveness.

My tenure as chair is ending sooner than expected. I realize I depart with the business of change unfinished. My confidence, though, is in the skill and dedication among board members and campus ministers who will surely carry the work forward. Thank you for your gracious and consistent encouragement. I am most confident that the Holy Spirit of the risen Christ will guide and empower our campus ministries as they seek to provide opportunities for students to explore, engage, and embody their faith in God.

The Rev. Jeffrey Harlow, Chair

THE PELL FOUNDATION

The Josephus Daniels Pell Foundation continues to award grants to individuals who are attending United Methodist-related seminaries in preparation for the ordained ministry through the Virginia Conference.

Over the past years the Pell Foundation has distributed more than \$950,000 to help defray the cost of a seminary education. This year seven students benefited from the grants that averaged \$5,000 per student. Students in seminary should contact our conference Board of Ordained Ministry to submit application for a grant.

We continue to take a prudent and long-term view of our investments portfolio as well as the distribution of the income. It is amazing what Mr. Pell accomplished through his one-time enduring gift to assist students preparing for the ordained ministry.

I want to thank our current Board of Directors for their diligent attention to the management of this gift: Roger L. Amole, James Branscome, Betty Forbes, the Rev. Tom Joyce (vice-president) the Rev. Sylvia Shepherd Meadows and William Young Jr. (secretary/treasurer). If I can be of further help with the purpose of the foundation, please contact me directly through the conference directory at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Adkins, President

UNITED METHODIST-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

FERRUM COLLEGE

Ferrum College is flourishing with the gracious munificence of our United Methodist friends! The members of the Ferrum community are extremely grateful for the enduring financial and prayerful support for our students. Our institution is proud of its heritage, and blessed by our relationship with The United Methodist Church. Scholarship funding continues to be our number one priority because of ever-increasing student need, and for that reason, we remain committed to our mission of accessibility and affordability. We thank you for all of your scholarship assistance as well as your encouragement in so many other ways.

The spring semester was productive and filled with anticipation, as we began to plan for Ferrum’s 100th anniversary in the 2013-2014 academic year, and “The Centennial Campaign.” The success of this major fundraising effort will require engagement by the entire Ferrum community, and we will be working with Board members and representatives from faculty and staff for different components of the campaign. We are especially excited about building an endowment for our Dean of the Chapel position and worship/ministry programming, and there will be special emphasis on academic programs, additional classroom and science lab facilities, endowed professorships, and scholarships.

As part of the growth on our campus, we have completed twelve significant capital projects, and we continue to receive accolades for our academic and athletic programs from students, families and the community. We received a major gift from the Cargill Foundation that will help fund our Garber Hall science lab renovation plans. Last summer’s NASCUMC meeting proved to be outstanding, as Ferrum was recognized as “one of the top 10 rural colleges” that are fulfilling their mission of access, affordability, diversity and sustainability. Our faculty is undertaking general education and curriculum review in the coming year and will be working towards a “contemporary yet traditional” course of study that will prepare our students for today’s increasingly complex society.

The University Senate team of The United Methodist Church visited Ferrum last year and gave us an outstanding review. They follow the SACS 10-year cycle and review their 125 U.S. colleges and universities based on criteria including Institutional Integrity, Program Quality, Financial Stability and Church Relatedness. They are particularly interested in ensuring that diversity and academic freedom are priorities on each campus. Ferrum was cited as a model for enrollment growth and fiscal conservation. Special accolades were given to Wes Astin, our Dean of the Chapel. The Rev. Astin is consistently ranked among the top chaplains on any of our campuses. He leads our students to spiritual fulfillment through service to God, family, and community. For the third consecutive year, he traveled with a group of Ferrum students during spring break to visit the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The students are enriched by this service to those less fortunate and return to Ferrum deepened in faith, character and patience.

We are pleased to have continually increasing support from alumni, friends, and foundations who want to partner with us as we guide our young men and women to become “principled leaders for the future.” It takes each and every one of us to build a better college, a stronger

community, and a world filled with opportunities. It is our steadfast prayer that Ferrum will continue to thrive and succeed. Thank you to all members of the Virginia Conference who recommend Ferrum to potential students. Your investment in Ferrum is an important key to our success. Please continue to remember our campus community and our students in your prayers.

Jennifer L. Braaten, President

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

Randolph-Macon College achieves its mission of “developing the mind and character of its students” by balancing a demanding academic program with individualized attention or “moments of connection” between its exceptional faculty and students. The student-faculty ratio is 11:1 and the average class size is 15 students.

The 2011-2012 academic year began with a total enrollment of 1,259 students. The Class of 2015 is the largest freshmen class in Randolph-Macon’s history.

The college kicked off a \$100 million campaign, “Building Extraordinary,” in April, 2011. This campaign, which launched with \$67 million in gifts already committed, is designed to support facilities, greater opportunities for faculty and students and programs that support the continued improvement of student outcomes through career and graduate school preparation. The goals for the campaign are set forth by the college’s strategic and master plans.

The college’s Master Plan is “Randolph-Macon On The Move.” Phase One construction projects include a new Student Center at Brock Commons, The John B. Werner Pavilion at McGraw-Page Library addition and renovations to Day Field (football/lacrosse). Completed projects include Andrews Hall, a freshmen residence facility named in honor of United Methodist pastor Ira Andrews, The Hugh Stephens Field at Estes Park (baseball), a new Tennis tennis complex, and renovations to both Haley and Fox Halls. Future construction includes the Birdsong Residence Hall and the Copley Science Center.

Randolph-Macon received a grant from The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) to strengthen Japanese Studies, a part of the college’s Asian Studies program, in memory of R-MC alumna Taylor Anderson (’08). Anderson perished during the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of Japan.

The A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program for Ordained Ministry, designed to support students who express an interest in a Christian vocation in ordained ministry, continues to meet with success on campus. The program program established its first class in 2004, and seven students are currently enrolled in the program. This scholarship is awarded to a limited number of selected students each year. Students receive half-tuition scholarships for the first two years and full tuition for junior and senior years, mentoring and assistance in fulfilling the requirements needed for acceptance into seminary in the The United Methodist Church. Two internships in a ministry setting are also mandatory during the students’ college careers.

Student outreach through community service continues to be an important aspect of a Randolph-Macon College education. Students are actively engaged in Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, and in April, students will volunteer for “Macon-A-Difference Day,” which is held annually in conjunction with Earth Day.

John E. Klein, President

RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY

I am pleased to report that Randolph-Macon Academy (R-MA) continues to make significant progress towards reaching the following vision: “Randolph-Macon Academy is the co-ed college-preparatory, military school of choice in the world for families seeking a values-based, academically challenging, structured environment.” This lofty vision was created by the R-MA Board of Trustees in partnership with the faculty and staff. The vision governs our day-to-day work and significantly influences our strategic decisions. Of course, we view vision accomplishment as a long-term proposition. You will note our vision does not suggest that we are to be the largest military prep-school in the nation; instead we are striving to be a values-based and academically challenging institution. We want to be the prep school of choice for families seeking a high quality education. This is a very different proposition from the stereotypical military prep-school. The key point is that we are serious about our vision and making great progress in reaching it. Like most organizational visions, the journey itself is as important as the actual destination; the attainment of excellence is elusive, but the pursuit is making R-MA a better school.

Given our vision, how do we operate day-to-day? What do we stand for? How do we interact with our students? What are we all about? These critical questions are answered in our statement of educational philosophy: The R-MA community (students, faculty, staff, parents, trustees, and alumni/ae) believes that every student at R-MA is curious and capable. Our positive interaction and personal attention inspires the students’ curiosity and confidence to learn throughout their personal and professional lives. We believe that the personal attention of the teacher makes the difference in the classroom. We believe parents, teachers, and administrators help students succeed by working together on academic aspirations, leadership, self-reliance, character development and service to others. We heartily believe students do their very best when they are known, respected, and encouraged.

Like our vision, this statement is a product of our R-MA community commitment. This philosophy underpins and drives our daily lives at the Academy. This is who we are – and what we stand for. At R-MA, our philosophy is routinely practiced and it gives us the touchstones for responsible adult and student behaviors.

I know that many organizations have fancy visions and philosophy statements; these statements are typically developed and “issued” to the faculty and do not really influence behavior. I am proud that at Randolph-Macon Academy, these statements are meaningful and they are acted upon – and in my view, make us a much better institution!

As I finish my 15th year as the president, I have never been more acutely sensitive to the positive impact of our affiliation with the Virginia Conference and The United Methodist Church. While public schools are busy purging references to God and eliminating patriotic ceremonies and pledges, we are teaching Bible classes, attending church services, praying, worshiping and conducting patriotic ceremonies. I am so proud to be associated with a values- and character-based institution where love of God and country are encouraged.

I wish to thank the churches of the Virginia Conference for their wonderful support of the education apportionment. I know these are difficult economic times. Please be assured the funds allotted to R-MA provide scholarships for deserving Methodist families and to support our school’s ministry. May God bless you for your loyal support of R-MA. We are eternally grateful.

Maj. Gen. Henry M. Hobgood, USAF (Ret.), President

RANDOLPH COLLEGE

Randolph College had a remarkable 2011-2012 academic year. The class of 2015 arrived in August in larger numbers and with an improved academic profile. Three new tenure-track faculty members also arrived in August and are already contributing greatly to the intellectual community at Randolph. Additionally, the college has been fortunate to see increased financial support from its alumnae and alumni, both in terms of actual dollars as well as the percentage of this group who give.

December was an important month, as our decennial reaffirmation of accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and

Schools successfully came to a conclusion. This included approval of our Quality Enhancement Plan, Bridges Not Walls, which will focus on intercultural competence. The faculty have approved a new first-year experience program to be implemented in the fall of 2012 with a passport program that will encourage first-year students to engage in a variety of different activities on campus. Additionally, the faculty have approved a new major, Sport and Exercise Studies, along with a new minor in multimedia journalism, both to begin in this fall.

Our faculty continues to receive significant national recognition. *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast* named the Randolph College faculty No. 1 out of all colleges and universities in the country for accessibility. The college was named a “best college” by *U.S. News and World Report*, *Forbes*, *The Princeton Review* and *Washington Monthly*. Perhaps most notably, *The Princeton Review* named Randolph one of the top 75 “best values” in private higher education, reaffirming our commitment to provide a world-class education at an affordable cost. This distinction is due, in part, to Randolph’s commitment to provide more than \$9.1 million in institutional grants to students.

All of us at Randolph College remain thankful for the strong relationship that exists between the college and the Virginia Conference. Randolph has been undergoing its decennial review with the University Senate of the The United Methodist Church and, as a part of this process, we are reminded of the many important roles that the church has played in the college’s history and continues to play today. I am particularly appreciative to District Superintendent Larry Davies and The Rev. Lee Sheaffer for their counsel as we prepared for the University Senate review and as we continue to discuss ways to maintain a strong relationship between the college and the conference..

Robert R. Lindgren, President

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY

Shenandoah University is committed to continuing its emphasis on Charles Wesley’s admonition to “unite the pair so long disjointed, knowledge and vital piety.”

With the Rev. Dr. Rhonda VanDyke Colby moving from the Office of Spiritual Life to become the Vice President for Student Life early last year, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Justin Allen as the new Dean of Spiritual Life and the Director of the Institute for Church Professions. In addition to a strong team of four staff persons to lead the vibrant spiritual life emphasis on campus, we also continue to be blessed with the presence, knowledge, and visionary leadership of our Bishop-in-Residence, Ray Chamberlain.

Connectional Engagement

This year we have spent a considerable amount of time focusing on our connection within the Virginia Conference. Working with the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet, Shenandoah University continues its leadership in *Calling 21*, a summer internship program. However, new connections throughout the denomination are also occurring.

- This year, with the help of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, we initiated Launch, a vocational discernment retreat for high school students, where we explored our calling among the beauty and challenges of God’s creation.
- General Conference is an important time in the life of the church, and it is equally important for students to use this as a learning opportunity. Our Spiritual Life team traveled with nine SU students and two former Calling 21 students to experience the intricate workings of The United Methodist Church. They learned the value of holy conferencing and the global nature of our denomination.

New Financial Commitments

We are proud to announce the creation of two new endowed funds within Spiritual Life:

- The Rev. Don VanDyke Colby Scholarship was established this year. The first recipient, Nicholas Ruxton (James River District), received the award in honor of the ministry of Rev. VanDyke Colby. This scholarship will be awarded yearly to a *JustFaith* Christian Leadership program student.
- Additionally, another endowment was established to further develop the *JustFaith* program through the Institute for Church Professions. This endowment will enable our students the ability to build relationships through international mission trips, attend General Conference and be present at premier leadership conferences throughout the United States.

Serving Our Community

We are committed to being involved in our communities both near and far as we serve others.

- Six days a week, students share in table fellowship with homeless guests. Students from the Hungry Hearts group on campus take food five days a week from the Allen Dining Hall to the Salvation Army, where they share a meal and have fellowship with the guests. Additionally, Sundays during the first half of the spring semester, students take food to a local church hosting the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS).
- In January, 16 students and staff traveled to Alabama on a mission trip. The team helped provide relief from the April 2011 tornadoes while they worked with families, Habitat for Humanity and the North Alabama Conference Disaster Response Team.
- Shenandoah Conservatory and the Spiritual Life Office added a new international mission trip this year to Guatemala. During spring break, 10 students, faculty, and staff traveled to Guatemala to teach music and repair some of the schools. The Division of Nursing again traveled to Brazil to serve on the John Wesley Medical Boat, and students in the Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy and Pharmacy programs traveled to Nicaragua.

Community Enrichment

We realize that part of our calling as a United Methodist institution is to reach out and provide support for our entire Shenandoah University community. This year, we began two new programs to assist and support our faculty and staff.

- During the summer, over 150 staff and faculty participated in Our Turn, a wellness initiative. This program focused on the physical, emotional, and spiritual sides of wellness.
- In response to what can be a trying time, the Office of Spiritual Life held a worship service entitled The Blue Holidays at the beginning of Advent. Students, faculty, and staff had a chance to gather, reflect on loss, and prepare for the holidays ahead that occasionally bring sorrow.
- Finally, it is my joy to announce that we installed two new trustees at the October meeting of the board. Elaine B. Aikens and Marjorie Lewis joined our team, dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our students.

I can assure you that Shenandoah University is embodying the mission of The United Methodist Church as we simultaneously seek to engage our calling to educate and inspire leaders for our church and world.

Tracy Fitzsimmons, President

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

The academic year at Virginia Wesleyan College has been filled with momentous accomplishments and a year-long celebration of our 50 years of growth and success in engaging students in a rigorous liberal arts education that will prepare them to meet the challenges of life and career in a complex and rapidly changing world.

In the 50 years since its chartering, Virginia Wesleyan College has grown into a nationally recognized, independent, co-educational, liberal arts college that has graduated over 8,000 men and women who have taken their places in the world and have achieved success in fields as diverse as education, law, science, health care, social services and the ministry.

In May 2011, 290 students graduated from Virginia Wesleyan, earning degrees in 34 different majors. Currently, the college has more than 1,400 undergraduate students with a student faculty ratio of 12.9 to 1.

The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students would like to thank those in the United Methodist community for their leadership and support during this 50th anniversary year and throughout our history.

In the fall of 2011, revolutionary new curriculum changes, four years in development, were introduced. “Inquiry guided learning” encourages students to become active learners by focusing on intellectual curiosity as a catalyst for acquiring knowledge and integrating that knowledge into real life experiences. The curriculum is based on a four-credit hour course rather than the traditional three-credit hour system. Students are using the fourth hour for in-depth, independent study which can include additional reading assignments, research or writing, community service externships, group projects and other activities. Whether it’s keeping journals or journeying into the community, the focus of the curriculum is to make connections.

The Department of Religious Studies is nationally known and offers courses from a variety of different approaches. During the 2011-2012 academic year, one course on the History of Methodism is of particular note. As part of the course, students have done research papers on the history of Wesleyan traditions and have been quite itinerant, circuit riding to various local churches like Monumental and First Methodist in Virginia Beach. The recent publications of Dr. Terry Lindvall from New York University Press (Sanctuary Cinema, 2007 and Celluloid Sermons, 2011) have showcased features on the use of moving pictures by the Methodists from their 1919 Centenary in Ohio to later work with the Protestant Film Commission.

Through the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, students have had an opportunity to explore a variety of subjects through lecture series that include topics such as Religion in the Public Schools, which deals with problems involved at the intersection of religion and public education; Religion on Campus, a semester-long series of conversations about religious issues in college, with student religious leaders, chaplains, and administrators from colleges and universities from throughout Tidewater and the Peninsula; and Some Hard Questions About Our Faiths, a series of interfaith dialogues that ask the difficult questions we often seek to avoid, but in an open society we must all consider.

Now entering his second year as the College’s Chaplain, the Rev. Greg West is having a positive impact on our students, on campus and beyond. There are numerous vital ministries happening through the Chaplain’s office. Marlin Ministry, our student leadership group, works with Chaplain West to pray, praise, plan and implement ministries and outreaches to the campus. Chaplain West is leading LIFE Groups which are loosely based on the Wesleyan Class Meetings. We also have students leading these LIFE Groups, which bring students to the intersection of the Scriptures and their lives. The worshipping community continues to grow in faith and numbers at our two weekly services. Chaplain West is also escorting our students on abroad programs. This year he returned to Nicaragua for a Spring Break Mission Trip with 10 students and one professor. They will be working with the House of Hope, a ministry to women and children who have been trapped in prostitution or human trafficking and with several local churches.

Virginia Wesleyan’s commitment to social responsibility has been evident throughout the year in a variety of projects, such as the 5th annual Homeless Shelter hosted on our campus. Our students are also participating in projects such as the Empty Bowls fund-raiser and Marlins Read neighborhood tutoring project.

The college was pleased to host The Center for Sacred Music’s 2011 Summer Conference which launched the 50th Anniversary celebration. Preceded by a reception for the families of those who were instrumental in the College’s founding, the concert led by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir’s Mac Wilberg, attracted more than 600 people to Christ and St. Luke’s Church in Norfolk and brought special attention to the center’s distinguished summer program as well as to the 50th anniversary of Virginia Wesleyan. The conference itself attracted a record classroom attendance of 203, drawn from 18 states, Canada and the Netherlands.

Throughout this 50th Anniversary, the College has celebrated its Methodist heritage and its strong ties to the larger community, while continuing to reconfirm its aspiration to be a supportive community that is committed to higher learning, social responsibility, ethical conduct, and religious freedom.

William Greer, President

CAMPUS MINISTRIES

CAMPUS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT MARY WASHINGTON

The Campus Christian Community is an ecumenical campus ministry on the campus of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg. It is supported by Presbyterians, United Methodists, Episcopalians and Lutherans. The motto is: “Welcoming all people, the Campus Christian Community witnesses to the love and power of God in Jesus Christ. The CCC ministers with students, faculty, and staff of Mary Washington College and the surrounding community through worship, study, fellowship, and service, and provides a forum to explore and question issues of faith and life.” This mission continues to serve as a guide for all we do together as a Christian community and reflects our ultimate objective to incarnate God’s love and mercy to all people.

Our primary weekly meeting continues to be our Thursday evening “TableTalk” program. Every Thursday from 5-7 p.m., 30-50 students gather to enjoy a meal provided by one of our supporting churches and engage in conversation about a topic of interest and concern. I speak at many of these meetings but often we will welcome guest speakers from the college community who will speak from their experience and academic expertise. We also invited several of our area ministers to lead one of our Thursday night discussions. Students also take part leading our meetings on topics such as Honduras missions, diversity, wisdom from seniors or Passover. Each week a major part of our Thursday evenings is our time of sharing and prayer. Students will open their lives up to one another and listen to stories of joy and prayers of concern.

We continue with our Wednesday afternoon Eucharist service. Not long back we built a small prayer room just off our main meeting room that is now set up for worship. Again we used the lectionary to read through the stories of Scripture and listen to each other’s observations and reflections. We continue to use *Taize* style music and enjoyed the quiet and peaceful atmosphere. The prayer room is also available during the day for students to spend a few moments of meditation and prayer. We had 11 student leaders plan and implement the program for this past year at the CCC. Every Monday evening, these student leaders meet to brainstorm ministry ideas and plan the details of CCC events. It was exciting to watch these students learn how to work together and listen to each other’s opinions.

In September we began planning our yearly short-term mission trip, scheduled for December. We again went to Honduras, where we volunteered in El Progreso. This year we helped build a new school room for one of the many poor villages. We also helped out in a nutrition center that cares for malnourished babies, and spent a day volunteering at Pronino, a home for street boys and the state run orphanage in San Pedro Sula. We then spent several days at Our Little Roses, an orphanage for abandoned or abused girls.

These mission trips can have a powerful impact on the lives of students. Many of our students alter their career plans and life goals as a result of these service experiences. As an example, one of our recent graduates, Christine Exley, is completing her second year in a PhD. Program at Stanford University in Economics and will study economic development in the third world. Her interests were dramatically

shaped by her involvement in several short term mission experiences with the CCC. Christine won many awards for her academic achievements including the alumni award given to the student displaying an outstanding combination of leadership, academic excellence and service.

Many of our graduates from last year are doing volunteer work such as Mike Hollister, serving with AmeriCorp, and Taylor Hall who is with the Peace Corps in Paraguay.

Several small groups met this year including a men’s group and a women’s group. These are support groups that focus on relationship building, discussion, and prayer. We also had Friday evening activities, which is a casual gathering of college students, watching a movie together, playing board games or just spending an hour or two together at the end of a busy week.

A new program for us this year was “Coffeeology,” which met on Sunday nights. It is a time to drink coffee and talk theology in a very open, supportive and creative way. We had a very nice turn-out for this weekly program of honest questioning and healthy interaction. Our students also used “Coffeeology” to reach out to our area high school students. A couple Sunday night sessions were opened to a few youth groups who joined us for this honest interchange of thoughts and ideas. This was a hug hit among the high school students and it was also greatly appreciated by our supporting churches. We will continue this next year.

This past year I was able to visit many of our area churches and sometimes preach a sermon about our work with students. Each time the congregations are eager to hear about what students are thinking and doing. They are happy to participate in campus ministry. Our mission trips are not possible without the involvement of our congregations. Not only did they give money to help students go on the trip, but then they opened their doors to listen to the students’ stories of their experience.

Young adulthood is a very dynamic time in life. These young people are moving out of adolescence and beginning their final move into full adulthood. It is not an easy time as they begin to make their own decisions about what they will believe and how they will live. It is so important that the church has a presence among students as they make this often bewildering transition. It is my hope that the church will continue to increase its sense of commitment toward this next generation of church and community leaders. The college years are an in-between time. As Henri Nouwen has said, they are moving out of their parents home but have yet to establish a home of their own.

I continue to feel lucky to be called to the task of creating a network of support for these students who are having experiences and making choices that can influence the rest of their lives. It is a great privilege to minister in a place that has had such a long tradition of faithful service to the community of this fine university. I look forward to the enthusiasm, ministry, relationships and new experiences in the year to come.

The Rev. Robert Azzarito, Campus Minister

WESLEY–WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION AT NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

Our year began with a Leadership Worship Service facilitated by the student president for the Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University. More than 15 students made a commitment to join the Wesley-Westminster Student Fellowship, which is an official organization recognized by the Administration of Norfolk State University.

Our students are engaged in their faith journey through activities that will enjoy the company of Christ in the mist of our weekly Meet and Greet fellowships held in the new Student Center on campus. We provide an interactive approach to Biblical application by exploring with the students existential issues using the theme “If Christ is the answer, what are the questions?” each week at our Bible study series.

For those students who wish to embody their faith walk, we offer regular sessions introducing the art and practice of listening to God through meditation. In addition to these activities, the ministry is invited to partner and advise many of the other student organizations offered on the campus of Norfolk State, which serves more than 7,000 students. The university utilizes me frequently to provide assistance in the Counseling Center, specifically to a board that deals with sexual abuse issues. The campus ministry program continues to serve the staff, faculty and students in their Christian development.

The school administration continues to provide rooms and equipment, internet and mailroom accommodations for the Wesley-Westminster Foundation - but not having the use of our own facility is still a great concern. During the months of December, January, February and March 2011 - 2012, many friends, board members, and Norfolk State building construction professor Walter Parker have volunteered their services for the campus ministry house renovation project. A United Methodist Youth Group of a local congregation, grades 8 through 12, helped in insulating the downstairs interior area during Lent. Walking by faith and not by sight has been the building block for our achievements in this ongoing campus ministry project.

We are thankful and grateful to all who labor toward the completion of this long awaited goal. As we look to the future, we stand united in faith, in prayer, and in execution to the mission of Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State and The United Methodist Church, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Rev. Larry Smith, Director/Campus Minister

PACE CAMPUS MINISTRY AT VCU

Our year began with a Student Fair at the Siegel Center, where more than 5,000 students gathered to see (and be seen) what the service organizations have to offer for them. Our student leaders were there to prevent an over view of the ministry and to invite the new students of VCU to walk with us on their journey while here. With more than 45 recognized faith groups to choose from, we are strategically located to be their ministry of choice.

Our new initiatives are doing extremely well serving more than 400 students monthly via study and worship! A great deal of credit goes to our intern, Vernon Gordon, and the student leaders who support and share leadership with him.

We continue to provide a welcoming space where other ministries may also serve the Kingdom of God: Aletheia College Ministry, LJC Korean Church, Staples Mills Baptist outreach, and Edge Ministry for special occasions. Our building is a tool that allows us to extend our ministry’s reach. This also helps us to adequately maintain this structure.

We offer ministry opportunities throughout the week as well as offer opportunities for VCU’s student body to enter into service to the Community through Highland Support Program and United Virginia. Both of these organizations use our building to reach Social Work and mission oriented students.

The Rev. James G. Daniely, Director

TIDEWATER WESLEY FOUNDATION AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

“That’s where the hard-core Christians have concerts.” These were the words overheard by a sibling of a student leader during our annual celebration of Old Dominion University(ODU)’s homecoming football game.

On a recent Facebook post, a student was asking directions to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. The response was “oh, it’s right next to the Wesley House – you know, the place where all those concerts happen.”

In an article published on Feb. 1, in the *Mace and Crown*, the student newspaper at ODU, the Wesley House was described “as a place

people will come to listen to some crazy music and have a good time.”

The idea to create an entertainment venue at the Tidewater Wesley Foundation for students at ODU and in the Hampton Roads area was born at a meeting of our leadership team shortly after an earthquake hit Virginia and before a hurricane delayed the opening of ODU for a few days. The students wanted to do something that would attract others to our building, would support local music and assist us in our goal to be a place “that offers spiritual discovery and growth, leadership development, fellowship and service to the world through our relationship with Jesus Christ.”

During the academic year, we hosted 26 shows. More than 75 bands have played and stayed in our building since September. We’ve hosted touring acts from New Jersey, Arkansas and Texas. Hundreds of students and young people have cycled through our doors and several have taken the free Bibles we offer at all our shows and have had conversations with several more about faith. During the summer, we hope to offer weekly concerts that will draw high school students and youth groups so that we may welcome new generations of students and prepare them to be a part of campus ministry when they come to ODU.

Our shows are an example of radical hospitality as we welcome all genres of music and all types of people. We only ask that people respect that we are a church-based campus ministry and to be open to what we offer. Our concerts always begin with prayer and when our lineup includes Christian musicians, we offer the chance for testimony.

These student-led events are teaching practical skills in sound production, management, and business in a non-profit faith based environment. We are not preparing leaders for the future. We are training and sending leaders for the church right now.

The success of this program has emboldened our student leadership team and allowed them to dream some big dreams. Our current five-year plan includes establishing a summer residential service experience for youth groups that will partner local non-profits and churches in the Park Place community and all of the Hampton Roads area. The college students who will lead this program will learn how to run a residential camp and be spiritual leaders to junior high and high school students.

We expect to kick-off a capital campaign in the 2013-2014 academic year to fund a transformation of the building. The renovations will add capacity to our building for shows, worship, and other events; provide a space for our summer mission program; and construct several apartments for residents who will live in an intentional Christian community during the academic year. These three programs will increase student leadership opportunities, provide stability in student leadership, allow the Board of Directors to move to a mentoring model of non-profit management and add to the income streams of our campus ministry.

We continue in our mission of outreach, evangelism and hospitality with our longstanding programs like “Table Talk.” We continue to offer small group studies, individual counseling, and opportunities for worship. We continue to offer service opportunities through our partnership with the Society of St. Andrew and Park Place UMC. We still offer space to AA and NA, the ODU music department, student groups and a Korean church. Our ministry is a vital part of the fabric of ODU and our presence is an important witness to the work of Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church.

On April 21, we celebrated the first-ever “Stakeholder” meeting for the Tidewater Wesley Foundation. Students volunteered their time to prepare a free spaghetti dinner for laity, clergy and other “stakeholders” with an interest in the Tidewater Wesley Foundation. At that meal, we outlined our vision and called on the church to support this vision.

July 1 marks the beginning of the Tidewater Wesley Foundation’s 30th year in ministry. We are calling on alumni to reconnect with the ministry and plan on a celebration to occur in April 2013. Please check out our website to see the way that you can connect to all the wonderful things happening at the Tidewater Wesley Foundation at <www.wesleyhouseodu.org>. Please continue to support us with your prayers, your gifts and your service.

The Rev. John Haynes Jr., Director

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTREIS AT VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

United Campus Ministries (UCM) at Virginia State University (VSU) is very grateful to Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church and the new James River District for their prayerful and generous support of our call to provide opportunities at VSU to impact lives and to make disciples of Christ through Christian Worship and Education, Fellowship, and Community Service!

Christian Worship and Education

Sunday services take place on campus at 2 p.m. Bible Study is held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Student leadership and participation in these endeavors has been manifested through the birth and rebirth of several ministries! In March 2011, was the development of the *Avodah* music ministry. *Avodah* is a 25-member praise and worship choir with a band rendering contemporary Christian and Gospel music during services on and off campus. *Avodah* has been blessed to take part in worship in many churches throughout the James River District, including Highland UMC and Bermuda Hundred UMC.

In the fall, a diaconate ministry was established to assist with the liturgical elements of worship and with serving communion. This ministry is comprised of six students who rotate duties on a weekly basis. After a semester-long hiatus, our praise dancers remerged with a new look, new student leadership structure and a new name of Chara. These students gracefully minister through dance, adding a special touch to service on the fourth Sunday of each month.

These three ministries have made a tremendous difference in the atmosphere of services by sharing the gospel message through creative and contemporary expressions that appeal to peers while creating new and exciting ways for students to get involved and exercise their gifts in ministry!

Christian Fellowship

Christian fellowship has included an array of spirit-filled activities for VSU students who desire to “gather with the saints” on Friday nights. In conjunction with the Department of Recreation and Leisure, we host an event each month of the semester that mixes faith and fun. At the Table is a game night where students gather for a multitude of table games including ping-pong, billiards, chess, checkers, Uno, Spades, Connect Four and more. Wade in the Water is a pool party where we take a break from the warm weather and enjoy swimming, water games and good fellowship. Crazy Praise is an open mic gospel music extravaganza, where all are invited to come and share their musical gifts and talents via high energy and passionate praise and worship. Each session includes devotional time during where the good news is shared with all who are gathered.

Community Service

UCM was welcomed by Communities In Schools at Etrick Elementary for year two of the Men of Troy and the Little Princesses mentoring programs. Two dozen VSU male and female students serve a corresponding number of third, fourth and fifth graders as positive role models and guides who assist them in their journey to adolescence. Members of the faculty and staff of VSU continue to partner with the Dinwiddie County Department of Social Services’ monthly USDA food commodities distribution. Last fall UCM organized groups of students to work with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for an eligible VSU employee in Petersburg and registered 18 participants for the annual Walk Against Hunger and raised \$477.00 for the cause.

In addition to these highlights, United Campus Ministries has benefitted from interns from the Mass Communications Department who

have managed our online communications. Our Facebook and university website pages are both managed by VSU students who have blessed us with their time, technological expertise and desire to serve the Lord! UCM continues to share the “Thought for the Day” to the entire campus community via the e-mail system. These motivational statements are inclusive of a variety of faith traditions out of respect for the diversity of belief systems throughout the Virginia State family.

We pray for God’s continued blessing of our ministry and yours. Thanks once again for your support!

The Rev. Delano Douglas, Director

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT VIRGINIA TECH

The students at the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech have truly been “Loving Out Loud” this year as we seek to embody the message of Matthew 22: 37-40, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Our faith community is excited about the many opportunities we have to gather for worship, discipleship, fellowship and mission. Every aspect of our ministry is focused on these four basic tenets of our Christian faith. As the students seek to “Invite and equip students to explore, engage, and embody an active faith in God,” our students believe it is vital to “Love Out Loud” in order to accomplish that vision.

From handing out free hot dogs to students at the bars in Blacksburg on a Friday night to Fall Retreat at Camp Dickenson to weekly Communion meditations and Crossroads worship to our spring break mission trip, Wesley has made this theme come to life. It was during our weekly Crossroads worship that a student said “The Wesley Foundation truly saved my life... the love each person showed me stopped me from taking my own life.”

Leading worship at local churches throughout the year enables students to use their gifts and grace to love our “connexion” that nurtures them in their Christian journey by preaching, singing, and joining in worship.

This year 45 students decided to take their spring break week to travel to Swanquarter, N.C., and love through mission to those affected by Hurricane Irene last fall. Our weekly Bible studies, small groups, and intramural sports provide ample opportunities to grow in love of their selves and God.

The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech is alive and the students are passionate about being nurtured at Table and sent out into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ. It is a place where lives are being transformed and the love of Christ is overflowing. One of the survivors of Hurricane Irene, whose house we had to demolish in order for another one to be built, exclaimed, “the love these students showed me this week is a love that can’t be put into words...all I can say is thank you...thank you for showing me the love of God.”

The Rev. Bret Gresham, Campus Minister

WILLIAM & MARY WESLEY FOUNDATION

In campus ministry, each year brings new opportunities for mission and ministry. In following God’s call to embody Christ’s love, our community lives out that love in the William and Mary community and beyond. We continue to have Bible study, small groups, and activities that nurture the spirits of the young adults who come our way, as well as so much more.

Each calendar year, we install a new leadership team. In December we said goodbye to the awesome leadership of the Young Adult Council 2011: Bonnie Roane, president; Owen Yancey, worship; Jane Baldwin-Tolliver, discipleship and service; Alexa Muri, communications; Heather Morris and Tara Miller, fellowship. In January, we welcomed our new leadership team of Owen Yancey, president; Jane Baldwin-Tolliver, worship; Jamie Lewis, discipleship and service; Marni Robins, communications; Jannette Morris and Rachel Fugate, fellowship. It is a joy and a privilege to serve with such dedicated and compassionate persons.

This year, we continued to invite the wider community to join us in fellowship and service to God and one another. Our Sunday night program continues to be the mainstay of our programming ministry. We have a program from 5-6 p.m. followed by dinner. This year we had a variety of speakers, from college President Taylor Reveley to seminary president and United Methodist pastor, Rebecca Parker, to Revs. Allie Rosner and Edward Hopkins. Other programs ranged from “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” to worship to a discussion of demons right before Halloween. In service, we partnered with the William & Mary gleaning group, as well as students from Old Dominion University in gleaning pumpkins; invited Professor Keith Graber Miller to come and share with the campus community, as well as youth, local pastors, and youth directors about the intersection between faith and sexuality; and we continued working to help feed the community with our annual Potato Drop. Each semester we offer the hospitality of lemonade and cookies, not only to the incoming freshmen and their families at move-in, but to the entire campus community at different times throughout the year. At the end of each year we carry out Operation Taco to offer food and grace to the students celebrating the end of the school year. Finally, we travelled this year to Atlanta for our spring break mission trip and, as usual, had a wonderful group of students, as well as a student from the local community college, and a board member to go. Hampton UMC once again graciously loaned us their church van to use on the trip, and the amazing Ron Rumsey was our driver, friend and so much more.

In addition to the events and projects that we do, we continue to partner with other campus groups as well. We participated in a movie and panel discussion on non-violent solutions to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, an ecumenical discussion of different understandings of communion, a guest speaker to discuss scripture and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues, a discussion of faith and persons who are LGBT, an interfaith dinner to listen and learn from one another about our different faith traditions, as well as continuing to take the lead in planning the annual Service of Lessons and Carols.

We reach out beyond the campus to our local churches as well. Our worship team, The Wesley Liturgists, continues to be a vital ministry to local churches, and they shared at many churches throughout the area. In addition, the partnership with two local churches in our community continues to grow and strengthen. Williamsburg UMC continues to be a place of worship and community for many of our students, and there are strong bonds between the life of the church and Wesley, as evidenced by a covered dish luncheon that was an astounding success, and by students continuing to participate in the worship and music of the church. Wellspring UMC is another local church where students have strong bonds as well. An Adopt-a-Student/Adopt-a-Family program continues to be an amazingly meaningful ministry for the church and the students, and Wellspring is a place of meaningful worship as well.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the campus minister here. The young adults and the entire Wesley community do an amazing job of living out the love and grace of God!

The Rev. Max Blalock, Campus Minister

THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

The Virginia United Methodist Foundation exists to serve the local churches and agencies within the Virginia Conference. It is available to help the local churches and agencies raise money for their programs and ministries by holding workshops on planned giving, which is simply encouraging individuals to make provisions in their estate plans for those churches and agencies that they have supported during their lifetimes.

The foundation is also available to work with local churches to help them establish a permanent endowment where such endowments are appropriate. The foundation offers local churches and agencies the ability to invest their monies, whether they are endowed funds or simply reserve funds, collectively in order to earn more money than they might earn individually. All monies placed with the foundation for investment are invested according to the *Book of Discipline's* Socially Responsible Investing policies.

The Virginia United Methodist Foundation is also available to manage comprehensive church campaigns for local churches for a fee considerably less than outside consultants might charge.

In addition to working with local churches, the foundation also is working in collaboration with United Methodist Family Services, United Methodist Homes, Heart Havens, Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center and the Society of St. Andrew to help facilitate planned gifts as well as significant current gifts. The foundation will be presenting planned giving seminars in conjunction with these agencies to encourage donors to support their various ministries and programs. The foundation and the agencies involved believe that through these collaborations cost savings will result for all involved which will allow more money to be focused on the delivery of services.

The foundation strives to become a true financial resource for the entire conference. It is our plan to add additional professional staff as financially feasible so that we can deliver more services to the local churches and agencies in the area of planned giving and campaign management and eventually an annual stewardship program.

Please let us know how we can better serve your church and the people in it.

E. Deal Tompkins, President and Executive Director

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

Nancy and I are now in our 18th year of serving the Retired Clergy Housing Corp. Thanks to the vision of the members of the Board of Directors through the years, we have increased our assets from around \$2.5 million to nearly \$5 million. She and I feel a deep sense of gratitude for having been a part of this increase.

Presently, our thoughts are centered on the future needs of the clergy in our Virginia Conference and the ability of our corporation to meet those needs. How many requests from “needy clergy” will we receive? Will the requests be fewer in number or more? If the number is more, will we have homes to fill these requests? Will we be solvent enough financially to meet the needs we may be called upon to fulfill?

Since we are the only conference in The United Methodist Church that offers this kind of service to our needy clergy, we have to rely on our own judgment with help from the Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop, Cabinet and Board of Pensions to give us clues. So as you can see, there is great difficulty in determining our future needs, or lack thereof, as it relates to the Virginia Conference. In 2011, information was received from all three groups concerning the future and answers are still unclear.

Since this is the first year that someone from our board has not shared with you from the Annual Conference platform, I am hoping you will make a special effort to read this report. My judgment is that we need to be diligent in keeping ahead of our needs as has been true ever since this corporation began in 1932. The needs may vary, however we will always have needy persons. Circumstances may arise which can effect one of us at any time. Therefore, anything we can do as a corporation to help is vital in our planning.

What can you do to help? First, become a member of the “Covenant of Gratitude.” Just \$1 per person ordained as a commissioned provisional member of our conference is a small amount that each clergy and lay member of our conference can contribute toward our financial needs. If you know of someone who might be willing to give their home or property to the Retired Clergy Housing Corp., please encourage that individual by asking them to call me so I can give the proper answers as to how this can be done. Finally, pray for Nancy and me and the members of our board as we plan for the future..

The Rev. Thomas L. Coffman, President

THE PREACHERS RELIEF SOCIETY

The purpose of the Preachers Relief Society is reflected in its official or legal name, “The Society for the Relief of Preachers of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and their Families, their Widows and Orphans, Inc.”

This past year several clergy and their families faced with acute financial problems were aided by grants from the society. Those in need of aid should apply to the society through their district superintendent. Grants are made in accordance with the severity of the need and the funds available. The grants are confidential and awarded without conditions. Persons interested in supporting this work are invited to remit contributions through the Virginia Conference or send them directly to our financial advisor: Larry Field, Scott and Stringfellow, 2101 Parks Ave., 402 Pavilion Center, Virginia Beach, VA 23541.

The society wishes to acknowledge with thanksgiving and appreciation the service of W. Alton Carswell. Alton is not only a long-time member of its board but has served it for many years as vice-president. We are grateful to Alton who has indicated he wishes to retire from the board following the election of a new member.

In addition to Alton Carswell, the members of the board of directors are: James Bergdoll (secretary), Sallye Bowen; Robert F. Cofield Jr. (vice-president), K. Dane Mills (treasurer), Henry Rogers, Harold E. White Sr. and myself.

The Rev. Robert T. Casey, president

THE BISHOPS’ FOUNDATION

The Bishops’ Foundation was created by action of the 2011 Annual Conference to provide training for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism and preaching in the Wesleyan spirit. Funds previously associated with the three predecessor organizations (the Goodson Foundation, the Stockton Endowment for Evangelism, and the Bishop Pannel Endowment) form the assets of The Bishops’ Foundation.

It is the intention of the Virginia Conference that future gifts in honor or memory of bishops of the conference be directed to it.

The foundation is led by a board of directors (five clergy and four laity) nominated by the cabinet. As of Dec. 31, 2011, current assets amount to approximately \$250,000. Endowment funds are invested with the Virginia United Methodist Foundation.

At the present time the board looks forward to providing training events that will benefit both clergy and laity of the conference, particularly in keeping with the goals of United Methodist Vital Congregations and our Virginia Conference’s strategic vision. It is the board’s intention to actively seek partnerships with other entities of the Conference to provide uniquely focused training programs for leadership development. The board is particularly interested in addressing the “gaps” that may exist in current conference ministry programming with an initial focus on fostering opportunities for young adult laity and clergy to help the church in reaching their generation.

The Rev. Bill Davidson, Chair

THE SOCIETY FOR WESLEYAN STUDIES

The Society for Wesleyan Studies (SWS) was established in 1983 to renew Wesleyan themes in the life of the Virginia Conference and in The United Methodist Church. The society sponsors events devoted to the study of issues related to the history, theology, practice and mission

of John and Charles Wesley and the Wesleyan tradition. While we seek to understand more thoroughly the richness of our unique heritage, we do so always with an eye toward applying those resources in the service of the contemporary church in its ongoing mission and ministries. Events and membership are open to all interested lay and clergy persons. Continuing Education credit is available at all our events.

Typically the SWS sponsors a major fall seminar and a spring event. This past year’s events reflect the intentional efforts of the society to introduce the Virginia Conference to some of the younger and most promising of a new generation of Wesleyan scholars/churchpersons. In October, we hosted the Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson, who engaged us in a spirited and fruitful conversation about “Reclaiming the Wesleyan Class Meeting” for making disciples of Jesus Christ in our time. Our spring event featured the Rev. Dr. Jason Vickers, from United Theological Seminary, who addressed the topic of “Resurrection and the Christian Life: The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Wesleys (and in Methodism today).”

Also in 2011, the society partnered with other conference groups in planning the conference-wide “Ordering of Ministry” event, which gave the Virginia Conference an opportunity to learn about and give input into possible changes to be made at the 2012 General Conference.

We are excited about our fall event (Oct. 7-8), when we will host the Rev. Dr. Daniel Bell, a United Methodist clergyperson and theological ethicist from Lutheran Southern Seminary, who will present the thesis of his book, *Just War as Christian Discipleship*, and lead us in discussing matters of peace and war through an intentionally theological reading and application of the “Just War” tradition.

The Rev. R. Bruce Johnson

THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The conference Commission on Disabilities (COD) is the advocate and educator for its congregations to be inclusive to the children of God with disabilities. We uphold the responsibility of the church to be in ministry with all persons, regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions.

We are the resource group for the conference and our goal is to make worship available to all persons regardless of their disability or challenges in life. We desire that all of God’s children are able to make disciples of all people and work in the ministry of the church to the fullest of their abilities as members of the Body of Christ on every level of the conference. As the disciples of Jesus Christ we strive to provide accessibility, education, opportunities and outlets for ministry to God’s children encouraging all to know the grace of God in each other’s lives and the power of living in God’s will and service so all may be made new in Christ Jesus.

The COD has been busily working. We have and will continue to provide materials for “Disability Awareness Sunday” – the first Sunday in February. We want to encourage all churches to recognize this special Sunday, if not in February, at least sometime during the year. We ask that each church make a part of their ministry an outreach to those who have a mental or physical disability. To look at their facilities and their programs and ask, “Can everyone in our community, our town, our county fellowship, participate and worship with us?” To help congregations to answer this question a “Presentation in a Box” has been developed. It uses props to help people without a disability to get a sense of what it might be like for someone with a disability to worship at their church. Contact the COD for more information.

The commission continues to issue grants to churches for accessibility, programs and respite care. The commission encourages the local churches to complete accessibility audits so that all churches, parsonages, and ministry buildings will be accessible to all God’s children.

“Camp Rainbow Connection” continues to provide a week of fun and fellowship for more than 120 campers between the ages of 20-82. The two separate weeks of camp provide a much needed respite for the families and caregivers of the campers, who all have some level of intellectual disability. Eighty-two volunteer staff members, ages 17 to well into the 80s, offered unconditional love to the campers as buddies.

This year COD supported a new sub-group which ministers to the deaf/hard of hearing community. The summer camp called “Camp Loud and Clear” was a huge success. The Rev. Randy Williams reported there were 13 campers who totally enjoyed themselves. The college student assistants and the adults also found the experience to be positive and a blessing. Plans are for 20 campers in 2012. This year’s budget was \$10,000 and the cost was \$10,081.

Both Camp Rainbow Connection and Camp Loud and Clear remain in need of volunteers. Please give your time and talents to touch the life of a very special camper, visit the conference website at <www.vaumc.org> for more details and an application.

Christ has called all of us to be ministers of his word to make disciples of all people. Let’s set a place at the table for those with disabilities and remove the stumbling blocks in our facilities. Let’s welcome and encourage all to worship God in an atmosphere of God’s glory and grace. Challenge your congregation and community to touch a life of someone on the edge and bring them into the loving arms of God and to know Christ’s salvation.

he Rev. Douglas E. Hollenbeck, Co-Chair

THE BOARD OF DISCIPLESHP

The Directing Board of the Board of Discipleship (BOD) spent the last year further developing its new programming approach. While the BOD felt that the organizational structure and plan of work adopted by the Annual Conference in 2010 was on the right track, we wanted to reaffirm with board members as well as adjust the plans where necessary. Toward that end, the BOD engaged a consultant to facilitate a strategic planning process. Three day-long meetings were held last fall to engage the board in this important work.

The BOD combined devotion, prayer, discussion and decision making in order to focus their work and assure a comprehensive outcome and plan. After reviewing its current guiding statements a new mission statement for the BOD was adopted: “Engaging with church leadership to understand and equip the local church so that they may experience the sheer joy of making disciples.”

Under the new structure of the BOD, equipping the local church will take place through five Regional Network Teams. A regional team leader will be appointed and trained for each region. This person will first connect with the district auperintendents in the region to partner and understand the needs of that district. Assessment Coaches will be recruited and trained to work with regional team leaders. These Assessment Coaches will connect with those churches in the region that are seeking assistance and support. To further support this system, the BOD will develop and maintain a bank of best practices expertise. The experts will be pulled from various resources. Once the coach understands the needs of the church leadership, the coach will deploy the most appropriate expertise to equip that church.

Finally, the BOD turned its focus to what measurements would constitute the organization’s metrics of success. It was discussed and recognized that effective measurement tools have a good balance of stories (qualitative data) and numbers (quantitative).

It’s hoped that the Regional Network Team structure will be fully implemented by next spring.

Youth and Young Adult Council

The Youth and Young Adults are not the church of the future; they are the church of today. The Youth and Young Adults of the Virginia Conference councils are offering their very best to other youth and young adults across Virginia as they serve in leadership positions.

More specifically, our Youth Council is energized to lead their peers with superb leadership via Fall Retreats, CCYM Retreats, and our novel gem called “LEAD.” This is a program where our youth across the conference are immersed into the City of Roanoke through an experiential model of self-discovery, spiritual disciplines, worship, and community service. The program is life changing because our youth are led to discover their strengths and to lead with confidence, power, and renewed vitality; thus, always pointing them to the call of Christ.

The Young Adult Council continues to lead a number of churches in VocationCARE by helping those churches find sacred space, unearthing their strength and power as a church. We hope the arm of this ministry will continue and become revival for participating churches. This year our Young Adult Council is challenging other young adults across the Conference to join them in an overseas mission trip. During the day, they will serve an AIDS camp and two orphanages; during the evenings, they will be devoted to the practices of VocationCARE.

Moving across the Virginia landscape, we are fortunate to have Casey Torrence to lead All God’s Children Camp for another year. We were blessed to have 130 campers and 150 adult mentors and volunteers. We send a hearty thanks to all of the churches that have partnered with us to make this a success. Please keep us in your prayers as we are in the planning stages for this year’s camp. The dates are as follows:

- Aug. 5-10 – Camp Highroad in Middleburg
- Aug. 5-10 – Camp Occohannock on the Bay in Belle Haven
- Aug. 12-17 – Westview on the James in Goochland

Older Adult Council

Nineteen people from Virginia took part in the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Older Adults’ Festival of Wisdom and Grace held at Lake Junaluska, N.C., Aug. 8-11, 2011. In April, the Older Adult Council offered its own overnight retreat for those who wanted to “prime their pump” of creativity and to network for sharing and fellowship with older adults from across the conference. With the theme of “ReFirement: Fostering a Creative Spark,” the retreat focused on enriching the lives of older adults and enhancing the ministries of the church. A variety of workshop sessions including watercolor and acrylic painting, music, liturgical movement, and knitting/crocheting were offered. Other activities of the council included development of worship materials for the 2012 Older Adult Recognition Sunday based upon the theme of “Forever Green” and continued assistance to start and expand Older Adult Ministries in our local churches.

The Rev. Beth Christian, Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Board of Discipleship recommends that each church in the Virginia Conference observe a Christian Education Sunday in the fall of 2012, and promote and receive a Christian Education offering (50 percent of which will remain in the district for teaching ministries, while the other 50 percent will support teaching ministries through the conference).
- The Board of Discipleship continues to recommend and endorse Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship.

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS INC.

In today’s high-tech world, a simple and powerful reminder is that church marketing is evangelism. It reminds me of the first chapter of Meredith Gould’s *The Word Made Fresh: Communicating Church and Faith Today*, which argues that church communications is ministry. What we do is not just some business skill for the church. The work communicators do is not mere work. It is a vital ministry of the church, seeking and saving the lost. We marketers and communicators, designers and editors, volunteers and assistants – we are evangelists.

With this background, and recent changes in our conference structure, your Board of Communications spent time in the fall revising our mission statement and the areas of focus for our work. Our new mission statement is “The mission of Virginia United Methodist Communications Inc. is to assist faith communities in communications and related technologies, empowering their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.”

In a time when communications tools are changing at break-neck speed it is often hard to keep up. If we are going to share the gospel of Jesus Christ we need to embrace all the options available to us. The great thing about these different modes of communication is that many of the resources are free or at low cost and allow faith communities of all sizes to reach their communities and around the world. As we seek to support faith communities in utilizing this type of evangelism they will form new relationships with people in their communities, and invite them into faith and fellowship.

Our work on behalf the conference provides communication resources in all forms. In print, we produce The *Virginia United Methodist Advocate* monthly newsmagazine with information from across the conference and across our denomination, as well as a weekly *Sunday Advocate* for use in church bulletins, and *Neighbors*, a mass-mail invitation piece. In electronic communications we maintain the conference website, issue the weekly *e-Advocate* newsletter, manage multiple e-mail groups, offer the *Advocate* in an online format, and maintain a Facebook and Twitter presence. We also provide video production for work with our conference boards and agencies.

In October, Communications Department videographer Pheath Ram received two Certificates of Merit for “All Things New” videos from the United Methodist Association of Communicators, a denomination-wide professional organization.

Living into the vision of The United Methodist Church “to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World,” we would like to help all of the faith communities of the Virginia Conference. When it comes to communications you have to be intentional about what you say and how often you say it. We would challenge every faith community to utilize a Communications Audit found on United Methodist Communications’ website at <www.umcom.org> where you will find a variety of other communication/evangelism tools to assist each faith community.

We look forward to partnering with all the work areas of the Virginia Conference as we seek to “Change the World” by sharing the good news.

The Rev. Bill McClung, President

THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTERIES

The Board of Global Ministries is composed of clergy and laity who are passionate about participating in God’s mission and empowering the church to do so creatively and joyfully.

In the last year, our Board has examined our role in helping congregations implement their Vital Congregation goals. We have focused on the question: how can we support and empower local churches to become vibrant mission stations? As you read these reports, you will notice some of the responses to this question. We have made some changes, and we all know that change is not always easy for the church. We held our fall meeting at Blackstone in conjunction with the Board of Church & Society, with the intention of working more closely and making a stronger connection with the justice aspect of God’s mission.

We are working on changes to the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) program, our volunteer mission-sending mechanism. The School of Christian Mission has been transformed into a Mission Encounter. We continue to develop the Mission Mentor program that was launched last year, and we believe this is an excellent resource for churches which are seeking to grow in their understanding and living out of God’s mission. God is at work doing amazing things in the world and we are blessed and humbled to be a part of it!

The Rev. Kristin M. Holbrook, President

MISSION INTERPRETATION TEAM

The Mission Interpretation Team is tasked with interpreting the mission outreach of The United Methodist Church to local congregations and districts. Two major tools that accomplish this are Mission Encounter 2012 – formerly called the School of Christian Mission – and Voices of Youth (VOY). Our team consists of elected clergy and laity as well as those persons who serve as district Mission Coordinators and United Methodist Women Education and Interpretation Coordinators.

Mission Mentors, trained and commissioned at 2011 Annual Conference, are additional interpreters of mission available upon request.

At our July meeting a lively discussion resulted in the formation of a task force that included young adults, men and women to look in depth at the School of Christian Mission. We are excited about Mission Encounter 2012, with a new format of workshops, UMVIM training, and a “Poverty Simulation” as well as in-depth mission studies about “Haiti’s Hopes and Challenges,” “Immigration in the Bible” and “Poverty.” Mission Encounter 2012 is a cooperative school offered by the Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women (UMW) to help us understand God’s work in our world and our involvement as United Methodists. The Mission Encounter is scheduled for July 27-29 and July 30- Aug. 2 at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center. Separate “mission trip” sessions are offered for youth and children. Hands-on mission projects help them understand and grow in awareness of local, national and global work done in Christ’s name by United Methodists. The dean for Mission Encounter 2012 is Louise Miller and the assistant dean is Donna Mott.

“Voices of Youth: Awakening the United Methodist Church to Mission” is designed to connect high school youth with those in need through music and mission. Voices of Youth 2012 team will be working on disaster relief in Joplin, Mo., from June 27-July 30. Contact Jennifer Dixon at <coordinator@voyva.org> or Chad Hrbek at <teamleader@voyva.org> for more information.

The Rev. Judy Fender, Chair

MISSION RELATIONSHIP TEAM

The Mission Relationship Team of the Board of Global Ministries is tasked with educating and encouraging local congregations to find ways to be active partners in the mission programs offered throughout Virginia, the United States and around the world. Information and training regarding mission opportunities, both nationally and internationally, is provided to leaders, individuals and teams through the conference UMVIM coordinator, Julie Warren.

Congregations are encouraged to offer “second mile” giving, beyond our apportioned giving, by supporting projects and the missionaries serving God through The United Methodist Church in mission fields far and near. Under the umbrella of the conference Board of Global Ministries, the Mission Relationship Team prayerfully discerns and compiles the Advance projects that are listed in the Mission Opportunities booklet, which is annually published in the August issue of the Virginia Advocate magazine. The booklet includes projects in Virginia, around the country, international, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and UMVIM information and tools, Virginia Conference Initiatives of Hope, and our missionaries. This booklet also provides tools for developing and strengthening covenant relationships. Encouraging congregations to become involved in these transformational relationships is an exciting element of our work. The Mission Opportunities booklet is an educational tool for laity and clergy alike. It is our hope that you will each acquaint yourselves and your congregations with the Advance Specials.

Erin McKenney and the Rev. Rebecca Rumburg, Co-Chairs

COMMITTEE ON MISSION PERSONNEL

The conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP) is working on ways to fulfill the following: 1) Recruitment of missionary candidates; 2) Promoting “covenant relationships” between congregations and United Methodist missionaries, with the goal that every congregation will someday have at least one covenant relationship with a missionary; and 3) Work with other conference entities to promote education of young people regarding United Methodist mission and service.

Since June, 2011, we have scheduled visits to supporting churches for the following Virginia sponsored missionaries: Clara Biswas, missionary serving in Cambodia; Jeremias Franca, missionary serving in Mozambique; and John Elmore, missionary serving in Chile. We also provided assistance in scheduling visits of a non-Virginia sponsored missionary to their supporting churches in Virginia.

We encourage all congregations, as well as individuals and groups, in the Virginia Conference to help support a missionary. To learn more about becoming a covenant partner with a missionary, e-mail the Mission office at <mission@vaumc.org> or call 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 144. To schedule a visit from a missionary, contact Dale Childrey at <dchildrey@comcast.net> or (804) 275-7560.

The Rev. Joanne Maughlin, Chair

HEALTH AND RELIEF TEAM

The Health and Relief Team has been busy working on meeting the 2011-2012 goals for the Virginia Conference. United Methodist social agencies and various Advance Specials in the Virginia Conference were contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire on health concerns. An analysis of this data was completed to assist the team with establishing a goal for 2012-2013. Our goal is: to educate, support and provide resources on child neglect/abuse, substance abuse and mental health for the local church and individuals.

Resources available include: UMFS (United Methodist Family Services), which provides treatment for children and youth who are victims of trauma, abuse and/or neglect. UMFS also offers school-based services for students with behavioral and emotional challenges and students with Asperser’s Syndrome. Virginia United Methodist Homes provides Life Care programs and dementia care services. Heart Havens provides services for developmentally challenged individuals. Wesley Housing Development Corp. provides housing for low- and moderate-income families, seniors and adults, including those with chronic diseases or disabilities. The Faith Community Nursing Ministry provides resources to the local church through parish nurses. The Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Health Ministries offers resources for families dealing with individuals diagnosed with mental illness.

This committee continues to be involved in direct ministries to human need and to work with seven ministries and conference-related agencies.

The Rev. Donna Mott, Chair

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

The Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team (CRDT) is actively engaged in providing disaster response ministries throughout the conference. During the last conference year, members of the team, as well as our Early Response Teams responded repeatedly to the tornado outbreaks that affected many of the districts within our conference, as well as providing connectional support to our neighbors in the Holston and North Carolina conferences. In addition, we responded to the destruction left behind from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee and have just recently conducted two case management classes in the counties affected by the Mineral-centered earthquake.

Conference Early Response Teams (ERT) have received numerous accolades for their relief and response efforts this year and are consistently looked to being “first-out” by the Virginia VOAD leadership and by Virginia Emergency Management. The CDRT and ERT have

volunteered thousands of hours in support of the districts and the communities impacted by the devastating storms that crossed our state last year.

Training continues to be at the forefront of our efforts. This year, through the dedication of our conference ERT coordinator and our three UMCOR-certified ERT trainers we have increased the number of UMCOR credentialed ERT responders to 300. We also included another Spiritual and Emotional Care Team training in our efforts to broaden the scope of our response capability. We are dedicated UMCOR partners and UMCOR has consistently supported all of our requests for training, education and financial assistance.

Because of the efforts of our equipment coordinator, our tools and disaster response equipment have been overhauled and updated. We are currently working on the rehabilitation of our 50-foot tractor-trailer shower unit that has been deployed outside of the conference for the last five years. We also added a dedicated ERT trailer to our inventory and thanks to a gift from our national VOAD partners we expect to add a 24-foot shower trailer by mid-year.

Disaster Response Team members travelled across the conference and across the country providing basic disaster training and education both in the local church setting and within several of the districts. Team members have been sought out for their expertise to teach in other conferences and on several occasions by UMCOR as well. The conference has a very dedicated and knowledgeable group of volunteers leading its disaster mission!

None of our efforts or capabilities would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the conference volunteers who make up the team, or members of our Virginia Conference churches who donate their time, talents and financial gifts to this important mission and ministry. On behalf of the entire team, I want to thank the Virginia Conference for your continued support.

The Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

HEART HAVENS

Expansion:

- Lynchburg2 began construction with a weekend building blitz in October with more than 150 individuals participating with support from district churches. This is a five-bed home across the street from the first home. The house was projected to open in May.
- Discussions continue with Charlottesville District around the possibility of a home in that area. The district is forming a committee.
- Preliminary planning has been done for site in Blackstone. but deed has not been transferred yet.

Other:

- 100 percent participation in Annual Fund by our board of directors.
- Increased awareness of Heart Havens:
 - More than doubled number of churches reached during Heart Havens month;
 - Made presentations at more than 20 United Methodist Men’s and United Methodist Women’s meetings, district programs and community organizations;
 - Promotions and ads in print, radio and TV.
- Completed a three-year Strategic Plan with input from staff, board and stakeholders; implementation time line in place.
- Multiple United Methodist Men’s groups in several districts held events;
- Our Rappahannock home was updated with new hardwood flooring, furniture, painting and a new handicap ramp built by United Methodist Men.
- Received \$33,000 in grants for home maintenance, furnishings and vehicles.
- Applied for Commonwealth Department of Rail and Public Transportation grant to replace two vans.
- Updated policy manual.
- Moved into new office (812 Moorefield Park Dr., Suite 301, Richmond, VA 23236).

Goals:

- Update our employee handbook;
- Continued exploration of opportunities for expansion;
- Set-up planned giving with existing families;
- Centralize volunteer efforts and donations.

Jennifer Boyden-Barrett, Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES

Our mission is “Touch a life. Create a Future.” UMFS provided services in 2011 to more than 9,000 children and families throughout Virginia, with Regional Centers in Richmond, Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Fredericksburg, and South Hill, Intensive Treatment Centers in Richmond and Centreville, and offices in Farmville, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Roanoke, Tazewell and Loudon counties. Our network of services include Family CARE Services, Treatment Foster Care, Adoption Services which includes Adoptive Family Preservation, Intensive Treatment Services, and School-Based Services, Project LIFE and Guardian Place.

Through our new chaplain, Joshua Andrzejewski, we will strengthen intergenerational spiritual life and pastoral care on our Richmond campus with our youth residents and senior residents at Guardian Place, and our connection with congregations and church leadership.

We are creating an agency-wide volunteer program. This will be led by Angie Williams, who has 17 years experience in youth and young adult ministries in the Virginia Conference.

Continuing a partnership with Commonwealth Autism Services (CAS), UMFS and Charterhouse School launched a new program this year called “Courage to Succeed,” which is a program that provides support services to young adults with Asperger’s Syndrome to allow them to attend J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

At UMFS, we reaffirm our relationship with the Virginia Annual Conference and ask for the continuing opportunity to collect the UMFS offering. We also value our place in our connection with the church and feel privileged to be a part of the ministry team.

The Rev. John Brenneke, Chair, UMFS Board, and Greg Peters, Chief Executive Officer

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST HOMES, INC.

The mission of Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH) is to provide facilities, services and programs to enhance the quality of life for older adults. These words carry great meaning and represent a lifelong commitment to the thousands of individuals who have called one of the seven VUMH communities home in the past 64 years.

Since the founding of VUMH in 1947, these words have grown to represent the lifeblood of the organization. VUMH has grown from two simple homes for older United Methodists to six continuing care retirement communities and one assisted living community, which touch all parts of the Virginia Conference while serving individuals of many faiths.

Between June 1, 2011 and Jan. 31, 2012, nearly 200 new residents have moved into one of the VUMH communities. VUMH strives to continuously meet the expectations of current and future needs of residents. To that end, renovations of the VUMH communities continue; however, none of the renovation work would be worth doing without the commitment and dedication of the many residents, donors, volunteers and staff members who live the VUMH mission every day.

At the heart of the VUMH mission are the staff members and volunteers who work tirelessly to improve the quality services already in place, and strive to develop new programs and services. In the spring, VUMH celebrated a significant milestone with one of its many caring employees as Burnice Crawford, a housekeeping employee at The Hermitage in Richmond, celebrated her 50th anniversary as an employee.

The many wonderful donors who support the Samaritan Program continue to give from their hearts. This is a positive sign as benevolent care needs continue to grow for the VUMH communities. A special thank you goes to our donors who make it possible for VUMH to provide facilities, services and programs to elders who have outlived their own personal financial resources.

Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO

WESLEY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Wesley Housing Development Corp. seeks to develop, own, operate, preserve and maintain housing and sustain quality Northern Virginia communities for low- and moderate-income families, seniors and individuals, including those with chronic diseases or disabilities.

Since 1974, we have developed 25 communities in six Northern Virginia locales to provide more than 20,000 residents with affordable, stable, quality housing. We currently manage 19 properties (approximately 2,200 residents, most of whom would be homeless otherwise) plus three Community Resource Centers and four special needs Resident Services Centers.

Current Real Estate Activities and Pipeline Projects:

- Colonial Village (Courthouse/Arlington): Renovation of the 162-unit community is in progress with residents moving into newly completed apartments. The project creates 17 new ADA compliant units and adds three-bedroom units to offer family-friendly apartments. All units will have new windows, full replacement of kitchens and baths, and energy saving upgrades. Completion expected this summer.
- Pierce Queen Apartments (Arlington): In partnership with Arlington County, progress is being made to redevelop the 50-unit garden-style community to expand the number of total units as well as provide committed affordable housing to create a mixed-income environment. Pierce Queen is located in the Fort Myer Heights North area, where gentrification threatens affordability.
- William Watters Apartments (Arlington): Renovation of the 21-unit apartment community’s heating system was completed in November, 2011.
- Route One, Fairfax County: Wesley Housing is seeking funding to purchase and renovate an apartment community that would add 183 units of affordable housing along Route One in South Fairfax County.

Resident Services/Special Projects:

- Wesley Housing’s educational programs and supportive services assisted residents and neighbors at our three Community Resource Centers (CRCs) while social/recreational activities, needs counseling, and linkage to community resources served residents at our four special needs Resident Services Centers (RSCs).
- The Whitefield Commons Community Resource Center reopened this year and launched the new Housing Stability Initiative. The Center is serving more than 100 families with adult and child programming such as job search assistance, sewing class, and homework help.
- Wesley Housing collected school supply items (from pencils and glue sticks to backpacks) to children in our communities and 230 students in grades pre-K through 5 at Plummer Elementary School.
- Our Adopt-A-Family Program partnered with churches, businesses, and individuals to offer holiday help for 188 of our neediest residents in 62 households, an increase of 84 percent over the number of residents served in 2010. Holiday celebrations (including gifts) were provided for children at our Community Resource Centers.

Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO

INITIATIVES OF HOPE

Initiatives of Hope (IOH) is planting seeds of hope with the people of the Igreja Metodista em Brasil and the Methodist Church of Mozambique. This year we are planning to expand our partnerships to include the Methodist Church in Cambodia.

Brazil: Our partnership with the Methodist Church in Brazil was enhanced in 2011 when a team of children from the Shade and Fresh Water program in Brazil traveled to Virginia to be “missionaries” to our conference. The children gave musical presentations at churches on the Alexandria, Arlington, Harrisonburg and Roanoke districts, Camp Overlook and at the 2011 Annual Conference session, where they were a big hit. Those who participated in the international consultation in Sao Paulo in April, 2011, are involved in planning and orientation for the expansion of the Shade and Fresh Water model to other locations where there are at-risk children in need of spiritual, intellectual and physical care. The director of the program in Brazil has traveled to Mozambique to provide information to the United Methodist Church of Mozambique and to assess the needs as well as evaluate the cultural adaptations that might need to be made to the program. Hopefully several Brazilian Shade and Fresh Water leaders will travel to Mozambique this year to train volunteers in the implementation of the program and a pilot program can be started by early 2013. (The Methodist Church in Honduras is also making plans to implement a pilot program in that country.) The Virginia Conference will continue to partner with these churches to address the needs of children in their communities through Shade and Fresh Water or similar programs run by volunteers from local churches.

Two young adults from Brazil joined Virginia Conference young adults for the Sojourn to Sacredness sponsored by conference Caretakers of God’s Creation last summer. Combined with the visit of a young adult team from Virginia to Curitiba, this experience laid the groundwork for additional interaction and mission among young adults in both countries.

An average of six to eight UVMIM teams travel to Brazil from Virginia each year. Our plan is to increase the number of teams and to encourage more teams from Brazil to come to Virginia for mission opportunities and relationship building in the months to come.

We are pleased that Shenandoah University School of Nursing will be sending a medical team to the Amazon again this year. We hope that will become an annual event for them and that we will have one or two additional medical teams in 2013.

Mozambique: The mission partnership of our Virginia Conference with the Mozambique United Methodist Church continues to strengthen, and be a blessing all around. The Annual Conference offering to the northern and southern Mozambique Conferences is used to strengthen their various ministries including providing Sunday school and theological education for church leaders. This leadership development work is done in an “extension” context with centers being established in Maputo and Inhambane, where tutors are transported and trained, materials translated, teaching aids purchased. Seminars for training Sunday school teachers were also held on three districts of the southern conference.

In June, 2011, teams from Annandale UMC and from Courthouse Community and St. Andrew’s UMCs, worked at the Cambine compound and at the Tinga-Tinga School in Bungene in areas of repair, leadership development, teaching, medical assistance, delivering supplies and most importantly – relating to brothers and sisters in Christ. There are five teams preparing to go to Mozambique in 2012: a medical symposium team and Global Citizenship Project team from Shenandoah University, a construction team from Annandale UMC, a conference

UMW leadership team, a women's clergy team and a local church team to Bungane. Additionally, initial preparations for 2013 teams have begun.

We invite churches, clusters of churches, and districts to consider the possibility of sending a team to Mozambique or Brazil: a unique experience of sharing Jesus, sharing culture, and partnering with faithful brothers and sisters who are tireless in their living out of the gospel.

The Rev. Judy Worthington, Chair; The Rev. Jay M. Hanke, Mozambique Initiative; and Dot Ivey, Brazil Initiative

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Relationship Agreements as presented to the Health and Relief Team between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.

2. That the three following special offerings be designated: February, Heart Havens month; December, United Methodist Family Services; and May 13-June 17, Virginia United Methodist Homes Samaritan Fund.

Advance Specials 2012-2013

MISSIONARIES

Adding: Esther Gitobu, Cambodia, Advance #13959Z

INTERNATIONAL

Cambodia: Street Children Ministry, Advance #14921A

Latin America: Community-Based Wholistic Health, Advance #3020620

Ghana: Ghana Water Projects, Advance #3020588

Macedonia: Macedonia in Mission Together, Advance #00220A

Chile: Family Center, Advance #14800A

Colombia: Church Buildings for the Colombian Methodist Church, Advance #3020764

Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project, Advance #11580A

Russia: Russia Mission Initiative, Russia, Belarus, Advance #11510A

Russia: Russia Mission Initiative, Ukraine, Moldova, Advance #14053A

Uganda: The Humble Place Program, Advance #14191A

Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Program, Advance #14377A

Cuba: Methodist Christian Home, Havana, Advance #11635A

Congo: Diengenga Trade School, Scholarships, Advance #15106B

Sudan: Sudan Emergency, Advance #184385

Africa: Aviation, Advance #3019626

Global: Children, Poverty, and Violence, Advance #14680A

Global: Anti-Human Trafficking, Advance #333615

Global: The Medicine Box, Advance #982630

Zimbabwe: AIDS Orphans Trust, Advance #982842

Global: Sustainable Agriculture, Advance #982188

Haiti: Solar Oven Project, Advance #418812

Guatemala: Highland Support Project, Advance #15022A

Africa: ZOE (Orphans in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya) Advance #982023

Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat, Advance #07629A

Mozambique: Evangelization and Church Expansion Ministry, Advance #12580A

Israel: Bethlehem Bible College, Advance #12017A

NATIONAL

North Carolina: Robeson County Church and Community Center, Advance #791742

District of Columbia: Christ House, Advance #381215

Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Advance #773726

Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville, Advance #781350

Florida: Cornerstone Family Ministries, Advance #751202

North Carolina: Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, Advance #731372

Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Advance #773365

National Challenge Fund for Hispanic/Latino Ministries, Advance #982620

South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry, Advance #123615

Alaska: Parish Partners, Alaska Missionary Conference, Advance #931027

Virginia: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry, Advance #901285

USA: Volunteers in Mission, Southeastern Jurisdiction, Advance #901875

USA: Society of St. Andrew, Advance #801600

USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster, Advance #901670

USA: Farming for Churches, Advance #3021060

VIRGINIA

New Advances:

Jackson Street UMC Community Revitalization Ministry, #5028

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Virginia, #5029

Henry Fork Service Center, #5008

United Methodist Community Outreach Program of Roanoke, #5004

Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery, #5037

Caretakers of God's Creation, #5016

Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc, #5020

GRACE Ministries of The United Methodist Church, #5035

ESL and Immigrant Ministries Childcare Support, #5036

United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond, #5001

Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS), #5010

Crossroads College Ministry, #5030

Summer Project Youth (SPY), #5018

Embrace Richmond, #5039

Heart Havens, #6442

Park View Community Mission, #5019

Wesley Community Center, #5025

Helping Hands Mission Camp, #5026

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, Advance #803001

Project Crossroads, Inc., Marian, Advance #781380

Just Neighbors Ministry, Advance #803002

Pathways Virginia Advance #803405

CHAPLAIN SERVICE PRISON MINISTRY OF VIRGINIA, INC.

A year ago I made the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc., report to the Virginia Annual and introduced a new DVD about the prison ministry in Virginia. The DVD depicts the ministry to 32,000 adult prisoners, 2,500 of whom are women, and 700 young men and 50 young women who are incarcerated in 31 state prisons and three juvenile correctional centers. The DVD includes comments from Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Dr. John Upton of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell. After the DVD was shown, I asked the delegates to pray for the Chaplains, for those whom they serve, and for the victims of their crimes.

After I spoke, a motion was made to reconsider the reduced grant for 2012. It passed overwhelmingly. On Sunday, Bishop Whitaker asked for CFA's response to the motion referring a request for additional funding for the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia. Jeff Davis stated that a task force had been formed within CFA to gather complete financial information from the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry, and that CFA will work within the current budget to accommodate the Annual Conference's request. The Rev. Robert Casey moved to increase the 2012 funding for the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia to \$149,000 using conference reserves, but Casey's motion was not approved.

This was when a miracle happened. The Rev. Greg West, chaplain at Virginia Wesleyan College, asked the bishop if there could be a special love offering for Chaplain Service. Bishop Whitaker approved that request, and hundreds of people came to the altar and presented gifts for Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc. The amount collected on that day was \$9,396.93. Praise God! Hallelujah! Additional money was designated for Chaplain Service, and the total amount collected was \$10,521.93!

As a follow-up to last year's amazing miracle offering (and to help make up for the reduced 2012 grant), I am issuing a special challenge: Would you please add \$25 a month (i.e. \$300 a year) to your church's budget for 2012? If so, your church will be acknowledged as one of Chaplain Service's "300 Club" churches. For \$300 a year your church will help provide a prison ministry that ministers to the women, youth and men who are in state prisons across Virginia. Funds may be sent monthly, quarterly or annually to: Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc.; 2317 Westwood Ave., Room 103-A; Richmond, VA 23230.

For more information, visit <www.chaplainservice.org>, or contact me at (804) 358-7650 or by e-mail at <chapservva@aol.com>.

The Rev. Cecil E. McFarland, President

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES

This October, ICM-Industrial & Commercial Ministries (ICM) will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Thousands of working men and women have been touched with the love of God by ICM chaplains. ICM chaplains are a direct extension of the local church's outreach mission, serving at their assigned workplace right within their own communities. These men and women, clergy and laity, are "a caring presence" to working folks who have a multitude of personal problems. ICM chaplains listen, do not judge and are there to offer referral sources.

Every ICM chaplain, all volunteers, completes a two-day training seminar covering subjects that will enable them to deal with the problems that they may encounter... grief, finances, theology, stress, substance abuse and others. Our goal is not to be experts, but rather help working folks find the resources that are available to them that will help solve their problems.

So often God is left at the church. ICM chaplains share God's love each week by being with working people, churched and unchurched, and letting them know that God does love and care about them. Someone said, "being a ICM chaplain is a lot like what Jesus did. He "hung out" with ordinary people in the workplace."

We need your help to expand and to grow our local ICM chapters. How can you help? Pray for ICM and our faithful chaplains; pray about becoming a ICM chaplain; consider supporting ICM financially, as an individual and as a church; help to establish a chapter in your area.

Want to know more? Visit <www.America.org>, call (540) 432-1919 or e-mail <icmmin@aol.com>.

Wayne Wright, Executive Director

THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

John Wesley was among the first to organize financial cooperatives among the faithful in the Methodist movement and it is in the spirit of Wesley that in 1952 the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union was established by a group of clergy who pooled their financial resources to help each other. As we celebrate 60 years of service in 2012, our membership has grown to include United Methodist churches, church members, clergy, organizations, agencies and institutions within the Virginia Conference.

We are a full-service financial institution and we operate solely to serve the financial needs of our member owners. Our all volunteer board of directors is comprised of a cross section of lay and clergy. We help our members by providing quality financial products and services, including savings and checking accounts, loans, Visa credit cards, online services and resources to assist our members with personal financial management. We sponsor scholarships for college bound students and have partnered with several conference churches to establish Jubilee Assistance Funds; a program that assists churches with providing their needy members short term help during a financial crisis and financial management tools to guide them toward long term financial stability.

Our church loan program helps conference churches with the refinancing of current loans, loans for parsonages, renovations, and vans and buses. We also offer project loans (up to \$50,000 unsecured) and credit cards for church business.

Our goal is to be the premier financial institution and primary resource for encouraging sound stewardship principles and helping Virginia United Methodist churches, individuals and institutions "to earn all they can and save all they can so they can give all they can" as servants of Christ in the world.

M. William Jones IV, Chair

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Even with the continued weak economic conditions throughout the country, the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) was faced with some additional challenges in 2011. These challenges had to be overcome in order to meet our goals.

This past year started out with some very poor weather that ultimately effected crop availability throughout much of the country. Severe flooding, too much rain, violent storms and tornadoes were common in the early months of the year. This kept farmers out of their fields at critical times and prevented other crop related work resulting in significantly reduced harvests – and consequently significantly reduced crops available for gleaning.

Most organizations would have given up and just accepted that it was going to be a bad year. Not SoSA. We understood that if we let down, we were really letting down America’s hungry people. In the second half of the year SoSA made the most of existing opportunities and created new opportunities to come roaring back. With renewed gleaning efforts and bringing new farmers on-board SoSA was able to regain that lost ground to save and distribute 27 million pounds of food. All of it was fruits and vegetables that the poor in our country desperately need and to which they have little or no access. For many of the poor in America, SoSA is their only source of fresh produce. At a time when the number of hungry in the U.S. has grown significantly, the need for this ministry has never been greater.

The last 12 months have been marked by huge successes and challenges met:

- All three programs, the Potato and Produce Project, the Gleaning Network, and Harvest of Hope, experienced strong performance in 2011;
- SoSA saved and distributed 27 million pounds of fresh produce, nearly equaling one of our best years on record. All of this food would have otherwise gone to waste!;
- The Potato Project increased distribution by more than 14 percent;
- More than 30,700 volunteers put their faith into action by volunteering in SoSA’s Gleaning Network;
- More than 4,500 separate gleaning events were conducted, an increase of more than 20 percent;
- Food was distributed nationwide including in every county in the Virginia Conference;
- The ministry touched the lives of millions of people all across the country;
- Hundreds of churches across the country joined in SoSA’s ministry for the very first time;
- SoSA’s influence has played a key role in national associations such as the Alliance to End Hunger, National Anti-Hunger Organizations, the Congressional Hunger Center and others. SoSA’s voice is now heard in national hunger policy discussions;
- SoSA’s new Harvest of Hope event for college students as an “Alternative Spring Break” more than doubled;
- SoSA was recognized by the First Lady of Virginia in her “Opportunity Hall of Fame”;
- More than 81 million servings of fresh at a cost of about two cents a serving!

SoSA’s Board of Directors adopted a new Strategic Plan that calls for SoSA to increase its food distribution by an additional 20 million pounds over the next three years and then be able to sustain that new level of program activity. This is a huge example of stepping out in faith and represents the most important decision that SoSA has made since its founding.

We are called to love “in deed and in truth” and that has been SoSA’s ministry for 32 years. That ministry happens because many others take that calling to heart. Volunteers, churches, individuals, farmers, feeding agencies, transporters, board members, staff, and financial partners, all comprise a thriving network to feed the hungry in our land. The leadership demonstrated by the Virginia Conference continues to be a blessing to this ministry and to all those in need of food, for the body and the Spirit.

Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director

THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY CENTER

For more than 115 years the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) has accommodated students and guests from throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. The facility was founded in 1892 as Blackstone Female Institute; when the college closed its doors in 1955, the Methodist Church took on the responsibility of the property’s maintenance. At the 1972 Virginia Annual Conference it was decided that a comprehensive plan was to be developed for turning the property into a viable conference center. It was through the tireless efforts of the United Methodist Women that necessary funds were raised to turn the property into VUMAC.

The center takes great pride in its service to the conference with participation from district youth retreats, the Cabinet, Minister’s Convocation, Lay Servants Academy, School of Christian Mission, Camp Rainbow, Clergy Spouse’s Retreat and Board of Ordained Ministry. It is United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men that continue to be the backbone of use and support for Blackstone. In addition to their specialized meetings, the United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting and the United Methodist Men’s Spiritual Retreat fill Blackstone with great Christ-centered activity.

In 2011, Blackstone hosted 12,314 overnight guests. It employed 11 full-time employees and 22 part-time employees.

At the close of the approved emergency conference-wide fund raising appeal to handle VUMAC debt totaling \$413,000 as approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) and District Superintendents, VUMAC raised \$138,988. This money was immediately used to lower the debt responsibility. The remaining debt was handled through a low-interest loan with Citizens Bank & Trust Co. for \$320,730.67.

On March 7, 2011, the conference Trustees agreed to convey the property deed of VUMAC from the conference to the facility’s Board of Directors. The decision of the Trustees title was made in order that VUMAC have every opportunity to move forward with the work at hand in making the facility financially stable and eminently useful in service to God’s great work. VUMAC pledged to the Trustees to work diligently to preserve the good name of Methodists and to continue to build a better center for all to use and enjoy. The deed was recorded in Nottoway County on April 11, 2011.

The Board of Directors formed a search committee for an Executive Director to continue to lead the Assembly Center into the future. Their search resulted in the hire of Samuel A. McCracken as its new executive director, effective July 1, 2011. McCracken came from DeFoggi Development and Construction Co. in Richmond, where he served as senior vice president. He has a strong background in administration and management, marketing strategy, and a comprehensive understanding of facility maintenance and construction.

VUMAC added three Board members in 2011, Jim Bergdoll, Catherine Bolton and William DuBois.

On June 11, 2011, VUMAC hosted a Founder’s Day special event entitled “Faith of Our Founding Fathers.” Gov. Robert F. McDonnell delivered the keynote address and talked about the Founding Fathers as people of faith. The event also included appearances by George Washington and Patrick Henry, portrayed by re-enactors Kevin Grantz and Michael Wells, respectively. Youth from Crenshaw UMC saluted our Founding Fathers in song.

In October, the Board voted to do business as Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center, noting that the center will be governed by the legal name the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center. The decision for this change in name was based on the need to cast its net for attendance to a wider market. In making the decision, the board further noted that other Christian conference and retreat centers seldom brand

themselves with a denomination.

In December, Blackstone celebrated Christmas with *Evening at Blackstone*. Amid garlands, decorated trees and a holiday feast, guests were once again delighted with this 16-year Blackstone tradition. Beginning with the captivating performance Star of Wonder by the youth from Crenshaw UMC and followed by period music from Williamsburg performer Dean Shostak, guests were filled with holiday spirit.

Last, but far from least, it was with a generous gift given in memory of Nell Ruth Clay Blanton by her son, Reuben L. Blanton Jr.; son-in-law, the Rev. Gene Tatum and daughter, Mary Nell Tatum. that refurbishment work began in December. Through their generosity the first floor parlor (room 113) will be renovated in honor of Nell Ruth Clay Blanton.

The Rev. Jim Tongue, Chair of the Board

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE WELLNESS MINISTRIES

In response to information provided in the 2009 Health Survey, and gleaned through more than three years of extensive research and personal interaction with clergy and spouses, Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries (VCWM) is proud to announce its recommendation that Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., (VUMPI) establish a new wellness partnership with Health Advocate, Inc. <www.healthadvocate.com>. A copy of VCWM’s Recommended Course of Action is provided as an attachment to this report.

If adopted, not later than Jan. 1, 2013, all active clergy and active lay employees enrolled in one of the health plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference will be eligible to utilize the range of services provided by Health Advocate. The member’s spouse, children, parents and in-laws will be eligible as well, at no additional cost. Future plans are to make the program available to retired clergy/retired lay employees – possibly as early as 2014.

Health Advocate’s services are divided into three major categories:

Core Health Advocacy: help with complex conditions, finding the right doctors/specialists, addressing eldercare issues, clarifying insurance coverage, helping to resolve claims issues, helping to negotiate medical bills and locating the right services at the right time.

Wellness Solution: unlimited personal wellness coaching by phone or e-mail; also, an online Health Risk Assessment (HRA), wellness workshops, health trackers, and MedChoice Support – assistance in making informed decisions about tests, treatments, procedures and medications.

Personalized Communications: personalized reminders about diagnostic and preventive care and procedures, as well as assistance with managing chronic conditions; copies of all communications are provided automatically to the member’s personal physician.

Additional information on Health Advocate, and its place in VUMPI’s health plans, is available through the VCWM website, <www.vcwministries.org>, or contact us at <VCWM@vcwministries.org>.

VCWM partnered with Johns Hopkins University and Anthem on a free pilot program called *Healthy Monday*; more than 200 active and retired clergy and spouses enrolled in the conference’s health plans chose to participate. *Healthy Monday*, which began in October, is scheduled to conclude during October 2012.

In collaboration with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits’ Center for Health, Duke University’s Clergy Health Initiative and Duke’s Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, VCWM partnered in the creation and funding of a three-year Longitudinal Research Survey to be administered annually to 5,000 United Methodist clergy across the United States from 2012-2014. The results of this survey will help guide denominational, jurisdictional and conference-level programming, and facilitate efforts to improve the health and wellness of clergy and their families. The first-year response rate was an excellent 37 percent.

VCWM continues to dialogue with Dr. Jeffrey Brantley, M.D., director of the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Program at Duke’s Center for Integrative Medicine. Dr. Brantley, an acknowledged expert in the field, is investigating ways to provide MBSR training via phone. VCWM is interested in making such a pilot program available to our Virginia Conference clergy as a tool for coping with the unique stresses associated with the pastoral vocation and ministerial lifestyle.

Our executive director, The Rev. Charles Reynolds, concluded his service as a member of the denomination’s quadrennial Church Systems Task Force (CSTF), which performed a detailed evaluation of four areas of connectional life: the itinerancy, supervisory systems, processes for entering/exiting ministry, and work-life balance. Additionally, he helped draft the Voluntary Transition Program (VTP), a plan to assist clergy transitioning out of ministry. The task force’s recommendations were presented to General Conference 2012.

Ecumenically, VCWM is cooperating with Bishop James Mauney and the staff of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to share programs and learning opportunities, with the goal of improving the health and wellness of clergy and their families across denominational lines.

Finally, VCWM is in the initial stages of conversation with the leadership of the member judicatories of the Virginia Council of Churches (VCC), exploring possibilities for collaboration in the areas of health and wellness. VCWM is optimistic that these conversations may result in the future sharing of knowledge, ideas and assets in a communal effort to facilitate wholistic wellness.

VCWM is dedicated to assisting our Virginia Conference clergy, lay employees, and their families to “have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10b). We request your prayers and welcome your feedback.

Donald Yesukaitis, President

RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

Submitted to the VUMPI Supplemental Benefits Committee on Feb. 23, 2012:

Whereas, the cost of providing coverage to participants enrolled in health care plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church continues to increase annually at a pace which threatens the future viability of such plans, and

Whereas, Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. (VCWM) was established to conduct necessary due diligence, on behalf of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), to identify opportunities to enhance the overall health and wellness of VUMPI’s health plan participants, and

Whereas, VCWM is under contract with VUMPI to study health and wellness issues among its client population, to recommend ways to improve same, and to oversee and/or aid in implementing various wellness-related programs and services provided by VUMPI to its client population, and

Whereas, VUMPI tasked VCWM to develop an overall strategy to mitigate the increasing trend in health plan costs (“Bend the Trend”) by using VUMPI’s 2009 Wellness Survey, and the 2010 Health and Wellness Assessment as a guide, and

Whereas, VUMPI defined the scope of work to include a four-phase initiative:

1. Data collection and analysis:
 - a. Conference Leadership questionnaire
 - b. Interviews of conference leadership
 - c. Survey of all clergy, lay employees and spouses
 - d. Analyze survey results

- e. Compile and report survey results
- f. Create executive summary of findings
- 2. Strategic and tactical planning:
 - a. Interpret and develop leadership’s vision
 - b. Determine if present state is acceptable
 - c. Inventory existing change agents, conference resources
 - d. Establish a road map to get to better place
 - e. Develop measurements and standards
 - f. Build conference-wide consensus; “sell it”
- 3. Rollout and implementation:
 - a. “Press the flesh” - Cabinet and district meetings, conference boards and agencies, lay leadership
 - b. Intense travel throughout conference
- 4. Ongoing maintenance and refinement:
 - a. Provide systematic reporting to leadership and constituents
 - b. Identify areas for systemic improvements
 - c. Refine health and wellness initiative processes
 - d. Collect and analyze feedback
 - e. Make recommendations to leadership
 - f. Integrate processes into existing systems, and

Whereas, costs related to the provision of health care services continue to escalate at a rapidly increasing pace, and current clinical and social research indicates that clergy and the families of clergy constitute a demographic stratum of American society with poor physical and emotional health, and

Whereas, current data provided by Anthem/Blue Cross Blue Shield continues to indicate low utilization rates among the VUMPI client population for diagnostic and preventive medical and wellness related services, and

Whereas, the 2009 Wellness Survey, the 2010 Health and Wellness Assessment, and significant ongoing interaction with the same population between 2007-2011 has resulted in the identification of specific health and wellness related services desired by clergy and their spouses, and

Whereas, VCWM has been successful in raising clergy/spouse awareness of health issues and wellness related practices, and believes the target population is now prepared to move forward with the completion of Phase 2 of the wellness initiative and partner with a commercial vendor, and

Whereas, VCWM has recently completed an eight-month process of researching, vetting, comparing and interviewing six wellness vendors from across the United States, and

Whereas, the vendors investigated by VCWM represent a variety of approaches, utilize a variety of techniques to facilitate and/or enhance wellness among client populations, and deal with client populations demographically similar to the VUMPI client population, and

Whereas, the VCWM Board of Directors has concluded its research by arriving at an unanimous choice of vendor,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Directors of Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. recommends to VUMPI’s Supplemental Benefits Committee the selection of Health Advocate, Inc. as the commercial vendor to provide contracted health and wellness services to VUMPI’s client population, beginning not later than Jan. 1, 2013, and that:

1. The Supplemental Benefits Committee endorse and recommend Health Advocate, Inc. <www.healthadvocate.com> to the VUMPI Board of Directors for the stated contractual purposes, and
2. Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. will continue its work with VUMPI by serving as Wellness Initiative Coordinator and liaison with Health Advocate, Inc., to formulate, oversee and administer health and wellness services provided by Health Advocate, Inc. to the VUMPI client population, and
3. The Supplemental Benefits Committee implement a multi-tiered personal contribution schedule to financially incentivize health plan participants to engage in desired wellness tasks within a given year.

**VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.
SECTION I: REPORTS**

REPORT 1: ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

The *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* directs each annual conference to establish a conference board of pension, auxiliary to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB), to have charge of the interests and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of The United Methodist Church, its institutions, organizations and agencies within each annual conference except as otherwise provided for by the GBOPHB.

On June 22, 1965, the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (VAUMC) established and incorporated the Virginia Methodist Pensions, Incorporation, (subsequently renamed on Feb. 2, 1971, to Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.), or “VUMPI,” as its conference board of pension.

VUMPI, in conjunction with the GBOPHB, develops and administers the numerous employee pension and benefit plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference. Some plans are employer-paid, while others are voluntary and 100 percent participant-paid:

VUMPI Plans
Health
Prescription
Dental
Supplemental Life
Voluntary Life
Long-Term Care
Medical Spending Account
Daycare Spending Account

GBPHB Plans
Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82)
Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)
Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB)
Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Contribution (CRSP-DC)
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)
Comprehensive Protection Plan

REPORT 2: PENSION PLAN COSTS

There are four components to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP):

- A. Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) for service and benefits accrued on and/or prior to Dec. 31, 1981.
- B. Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) for service and benefits accrued on and/or after January 1, 1982 through Dec. 31, 2006.
- C. Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Benefit Plan (CRSP-DB) for service and benefits accrued on and/or after January 1, 2007.
- D. Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Contribution Plan (CRSP-DC) for service and benefits accrued on and/or after Jan. 1, 2007.

The GBOPHB refers to plans A-C above as “defined benefit” pension plans. That is, each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference served/serves and received/receives pension credit, the applicable plan will pay a certain benefit, or “defined” monthly income during retirement. Hence, the term “defined benefit”. Defined benefit plans do not maintain participant account balances since the employer, or in our case, the GBOPHB, has the responsibility to manage the funds in a manner sufficient to pay the monthly defined benefit.

Simultaneous to the GBOPHB calculating each participant’s defined benefit, it calculates each annual conference’s cost to provide these defined benefits. The GBOPHB bills each annual conference the amount due. Each annual conference, or in our case, VUMPI, then in-turn bills and apportions our local churches for the cost of these plans.

The GBOPHB calculated the DEFINED BENEFIT pension costs as follows:

	2012	2013
Pre-82	\$1,901,992	\$1,387,695
MPP	0	0
CRSP–DB	5,755,023	5,924,719
Total DEFINED BENEFIT Pension Cost	\$7,657,015	\$7,312,414

In addition to these “defined benefit” plans, annual conferences provide their clergy pension benefits from the CRSP-DC, a “defined contribution” plan. Each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference serves and receives pension credit, the Virginia Conference determines how much pension contribution each clergy participant will receive in his/her pension account. Hence, the term “defined contribution.” VUMPI bills local churches for the required amount of pension contribution, then in-turn, makes monthly contributions into the clergy CRSP-DC accounts equal to 3% of salary and housing.

The GBOPHB calculated the DEFINED CONTRIBUTION pension cost as follows:

	2012	2013
CRSP-DC	\$1,624,258	\$1,563,864
Total DEFINED CONTRIBUTION Pension Cost	\$ 1,624,258	\$1,563,864

REPORT 3: HEALTH AND WELLNESS INITIATIVE

In 2007, VUMPI began a process to re-examine how it could positively influence the factors affecting the health and wellness of our clergy health plan participants, and their families.

The Health and Wellness Assessment, which canvassed more than 1,100 clergy and spouses, is complete. Findings have been distributed to the Bishop, the Virginia Conference Extended Cabinet, Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, LTD., and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

As intended, the Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, LTD., is now leading a collaborative effort among Virginia Conference boards, agencies and leadership to identify and implement initiatives that will increase the overall health and wellness of our clergy and their families.

VUMPI will implement a multi-tiered Personal Contribution schedule to financially incentivize health plan participants to engage in desired wellness tasks. Health Advocate, Inc., a vendor retained by VUMPI, will – in coordination with VUMPI and VCWM – implement a comprehensive wellness initiative; identify desired wellness tasks; engage Virginia Conference clergy, lay employees and their spouses to accomplish the desired wellness tasks; measure participation and benefit utilization, and determine the effect on health plan claims; and work with VUMPI and VCWM to determine VUMPI’s Return on Investment (ROI).

If you are not yet aware of the work underway at the Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd., VUMPI strongly encourages you to review the results of the Virginia Conference Health and Wellness Assessment at <www.vaumc.org/wellnessministries>, and/or contact Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries at <www.vcwministries.org>.

REPORT 4: MEDICARE PART D SUBSIDY

In 2011, VUMPI received its government subsidy for continuing to offer prescription drug coverage as part of our Retiree Health Plan (RHP). The subsidy totaled \$960,372. This payment was based upon our 2010 and 2011 prescription utilization. This subsidy will always be based upon our previous year’s prescription drug utilization. VUMPI anticipated this subsidy and incorporated it into our two-year medical trend factors to reduce the Church Apportionments and Personal Contribution rates for the 2013 RHP. This will continue to be our annual practice as long as the subsidy is made available to us.

REPORT 5: CONSUMER-DRIVEN HEALTH PLANS

On Jan. 1, 2007, VUMPI rolled out a new health plan option for our active clergy. This plan, referred to as the Clergy Managed Care Plan (CMCP), is commonly referred to as a Consumer-Driven Health Plan. Specifically, it is a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). The CMCP was offered in addition to existing plans, therefore, it did not replace the Participating Provider Organization (PPO) or Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans.

The plan continues to operate as expected and has played a valuable role in fulfilling its original purpose – to educate our clergy participants and their dependents on the cost of health care – and with this information, encourage them to assist VUMPI in a collective attempt to “Bend the Trend” in our overall health care costs. However, VUMPI postponed plans to convert this plan to a qualified Health Savings Account (HSA) until further details emerge about the national health care insurance.

**SECTION II: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE APPROVAL
RECOMMENDATION 1: 2013 HEALTH PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

From time to time, our health plans may be required to comply with changes in state law as mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and all other states that have jurisdiction over our plans. It is our policy to review these changes in a timely manner, typically between sessions of the annual conference, and include changes that expand coverage as long as it can be done so without material increase in health care cost paid by our annual conference.

Virginia Conference clergy members will earn a year of service towards his/her Total VAUMC Years of Service as indicated in

the Retiree Health Plan Vesting and Contribution Schedule found in RECOMMENDATION 3: PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATIONS as long as they meet the Virginia Annual Conference's Retiree Health Plan eligibility.

ALL ELIGIBLE CLERGY MUST BE ENROLLED IN THE CONFERENCE HEALTH PLAN UNLESS PROOF OF OTHER COVERAGE IS SUBMITTED TO VUMPI.

IF YOU DO NOT ENROLL DURING THE OPEN ENROLLMENT, YOUR FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT ELECTION WILL BE ZERO (\$0.00) FOR 2013 PER LAW AND YOU WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED AS A SINGLE EMPLOYEE, SUBJECT TO THE SINGLE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION RATES IN A "DEFAULT PLAN".

THE "DEFAULT PLAN" IS THE \$750/\$2,000 PPO PLAN WITHOUT DENTAL COVERAGE., YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTRONIC OPEN ENROLLMENT IN THE FALL OF 2012. DETAILS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH NORMAL ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT MEANS.

For 2013, VUMPI recommends the Virginia Annual Conference adopt the following changes to its plans:

Retiree Health Plan (RHP):

Under Age 65
No Changes in 2013 benefits under the Retiree Health Plan (RHP).
Over Age 65
No changes in 2013 benefits under the Retiree Health Plan (RHP). Participants must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Retiree Health Plan.

Conference Health Plan (CHP):

Actives:
No Changes in 2013 benefits under the Conference Health Plan's (CHP) \$750 PPO or Clergy Managed Care Plan (CMCP). The HMO Plan will be replaced with Anthem's Standard Point of Service (POS) Plan.

Incapacitated with approved CPP benefits:

Under Age 65
No Changes in 2013 benefits under the \$500 Deductible PPO Plan. Participants who are eligible for Medicare Part A & B must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B as soon as they are eligible in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Health Plans.
Over Age 65
No Changes in 2013 benefits under the \$500 Deductible PPO Plan. Participants must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Health Plans.

Widowed Spouses of Active Clergy:

Under Age 65
No Changes in 2013 benefits under the \$500 Deductible PPO Plan.
Over Age 65
Widowed Spouses of Active Clergy Over Age 65 receive their coverage under the Retiree Health Plan. Participants must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Health Plans.

RECOMMENDATION 2: 2013 PENSION AND HEALTH PLAN APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Total Apportionment Summary

VUMPI recommends the total pension and health apportionment of \$16,101,745 for 2013, comprised of the following components: Pre-1982 Pension \$1,387,695; Conference Health Plan (CHP) – \$8,445,917; Retiree Health Plan (RHP) – \$5,651,788; Incapacitated and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors – \$616,345.

[Note: VUMPI will continue to bill conference-responsible salary-paying-units (such as Extension Ministry or new start appointments) in 2013. This billed amount will be \$10,895 for each eligible clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for ACTIVE CLERGY as noted in RECOMMENDATION 3: PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATIONS].

VUMPI's Pension, Health & Welfare Reserve Fund may be used to subsidize related apportionments as needed.

Pre-1982 Pension Plan – Past Service Rate (PSR) & Apportionment Components

VUMPI recommends the 2013 Pre-1982 Apportionment of \$1,387,695. VUMPI recommends the 2013 PSR to remain at \$560.

The Virginia Annual Conference provides a retirement pension benefit to all eligible clergy who have served in the conference prior to 1982. This pension plan pays the greater of: (1) an annual benefit equal to the PSR times years of pre-1982 service; or (2) an annuity amount based upon the participant's cash balance in his/her Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM) Account.

The Virginia Annual Conference establishes the PSR rate each year based on a formula established by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The PSR rate is equal to .9 percent of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The PSR reflects the annual increases in salaries for active clergy.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits calculates the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) and the Virginia Conference Average Compensation (CAC), and are as follows:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
DAC	\$62,781	\$63,867
CAC	\$62,142	\$62,205

Health Plan Apportionment Components

Retired Clergy:

VUMPI recommends a RHP apportionment of \$5,651,788. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases in the RHP apportionment at a rate that, when combined with commensurate increases in Participant Contributions, are sufficient to fully fund the RHP's operating cost.

Active Clergy:

VUMPI recommends a CHP apportionment of \$8,445,917. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases in the CHP apportionment at a rate that, when combined with commensurate increases in Participant Contributions, are sufficient to fully fund the CHP's operating cost.

Incapacitated and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors:

VUMPI recommends an Incapacitated and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors apportionment of \$616,345.

RECOMMENDATION 3: PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended Participant Contribution Rates for all health plans are as follows. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases in Participant Contribution Rates that, when combined with commensurate increases in health plan apportionments, are sufficient to fully fund the operating cost of all the health plans.

2013 MONTHLY PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS*

INCAPACITATED WITH CPP BENEFITS /SURVIVING SPOUSES UNDER AGE 65

\$500 PPO Medical & Rx Plan

Individual	\$101
Family	\$162

Dental	CORE	MAJOR
Individual	\$13	\$33
Family	\$54	\$102

ACTIVE CLERGY ***

Medical & Rx Plan	POS	750 PPO	CMCP
Individual	\$103	\$93	\$82
Family	\$318	\$288	\$266

***Participation in the Wellness Plan can reduce these rates \$15 per month for individual coverage or up to \$30 per month for family coverage.

Dental	CORE	MAJOR
Individual	\$13	\$33
Family	\$54	\$102

CLERGY ON VOLUNTARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE and SABBATICAL

Medical & Rx Plan	POS	750 PPO	CMCP
Individual	\$618	\$563	N/A
Family	\$1665	\$1492	N/A

Dental	CORE	MAJOR
Individual	\$30	\$58
Family	\$ 56	\$127

CLERGY RETIRED under ¶358.2a (with 20 years of service) or ¶358.3 (prior to Age 62 with less than 30 Years of Service)

Medical & Rx Plan	750 PPO
Individual	\$563
Family	\$1492

Dental	CORE	MAJOR
Individual	\$30	\$58
Family	\$56	\$127

CLERGY RETIRED under ¶358.1; ¶358.2b; ¶358.2c or ¶358.3

Retiree Health Plan Vesting & Monthly Contribution Schedule for Clergy:

<u>Total VAUMC Years of Service</u>	<u>Who is Covered?</u>	<u>Retirees > Age 65**</u>	<u>Retirees < Age 65</u>		
			<u>PPO 500</u>	<u>Dental Core</u>	<u>Dental Major</u>
0-9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-14	Individual Family	\$440 \$735	\$628 \$1,209	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
15-19	Individual Family	\$357 \$593	\$509 \$979	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
20-24	Individual Family	\$272 \$452	\$389 \$749	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
25-29	Individual Family	\$189 \$315	\$270 \$519	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
30+	Individual Family	\$105 \$175	\$150 \$287	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126

*Includes Deacons-in-Full-Connection enrolled in Clergy Conference Health Plan (CHP).

** Medicare Supplement & Prescription Drug Plan

CLERGY RETIREE HEALTH PLAN MONTHLY ACCESS FEE

Individual	\$20
Family	\$20

RECOMMENDATION 4: 2013 CRSP / CPP / VAUMC SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS**Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)**

The 2013 CRSP Contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under Episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, up to the Denominational Average Compensation) times 12 percent.

$$CRSP\ Contribution = (Plan\ Compensation) \times (12.0\%)$$

Local churches and salary-paying units are to make their monthly CRSP payments to VUMPI.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

The 2013 CPP Contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under Episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, up to 200 percent of the Denominational Average Compensation) times 4.4 percent.

$$CPP\ Contribution = (Plan\ Compensation) \times (4.4\%)$$

Local churches and salary-paying units are to make their monthly CPP payments to VUMPI.

If, for any reason, CPP contributions are more than 30 days in arrears, participation in the CPP is suspended. If contributions are more than six consecutive months in arrears, participation in the CPP is terminated. For terminated participants, readmission into the CPP requires payment of 7 months of contributions and submission of medical statement of good health.

Erroneously enrolled clergy who are ineligible to participate in the CPP have no right to benefits under the CPP. Eligible clergy who have not been properly enrolled in the CPP have no rights under the CPP until after proper enrollment.

A. Disability Benefits

1. For those Clergy disabled on or after Jan. 1, 2002, the 2013 CPP disability benefit equals 70 percent of Plan Compensation, with compensation capped at 200 percent of the DAC. For further details, refer to the CPP Summary Plan Document provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

2. For those Clergy disabled prior to Jan. 1, 2002, they will continue to receive the same CPP disability benefit and conference disability supplement per the plan document in-force at the time their disability claim originated. For details, contact the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. office at (804) 521-1100 or 1-800-768-6040.

B. Death Benefits

1. The CPP death benefit for all active full-time clergy under Episcopal appointment is \$50,000. The beneficiary may choose to have the death benefit paid in 12 equal monthly installments or as one lump sum. Upon retirement, death benefits are reduced to equal 30 percent of the DAC and are payable in a lump sum.

2. The Conference Supplemental Death Benefit for all active full-time clergy under Episcopal appointment is \$25,000. This Conference Supplemental Death Benefit is payable in addition to the CPP death benefit. During retirement, a \$5,000 Conference Supplemental Death Benefit will be payable to CPP participants, in addition to the CPP death benefit. The beneficiary will receive the Conference Supplemental Death Benefit payable in one lump sum. The Conference pays the entire cost of this Supplemental Death Benefit.

3. In combination, the CPP and Conference Supplemental Death Benefit provide total death benefits of:

- \$75,000 to beneficiaries of active clergy participants;
- 30% of the DAC + \$5,000 to beneficiaries of retired clergy participants.

Gift Benefit

A \$1,500 gift is given at the time of retirement or disability (once awarded disability benefits under the Comprehensive Protection Plan) to each clergyperson who has served at least 10 years of service in a full-time Virginia Annual Conference Episcopal appointment in the Virginia Conference with pension credit. Further, a gift to the families of each clergyperson who dies in active service is paid in the same amount as the gift to retired or disabled clergypersons.

RECOMMENDATION 5: 2012 PRE-1982 FUNDING PLAN
Virginia Annual Conference Funding Plan
For Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program
Calculated Using Data as of Jan.1, 2010, Effective Jan. 1, 2012

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program is commonly referred to as the "Pre-82" pension plan.

The Virginia Annual Conference Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$560, or 0.9% of our Conference Average Compensation (CAC) which is \$62,142. For the past 6 years, our CAC has increased by an average of approximately 2.0% per year, and we expect that pattern to continue.

Before Jan. 1, 1982 and as part of the rollout of the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), the General Board of Pension communicated to the denomination that each conference would be required to amortize its unfunded liability within the Pre-1982 Pension Plan over 40 years, or by Dec. 31, 2021.

The Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), on behalf of the Virginia Annual Conference, will make an annual contribution to Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program of \$1,901,992, based on 2.0% PSR increases and amortized over the period ending December 31, 2021.

VUMPI will fund these benefits through a single annual contribution to the Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB), and made typically during the fourth week of December for the year in which it is due. This contribution, and all subsequent contributions will be made from Virginia Annual Conference Pre-1982 apportionments.

The Pre-1982 Pension Valuation and subsequent required funding, calculated using data as of January 1, 2010, effective January 1, 2012, is calculated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefit using 7% interest, 2% benefit increases, and the RP-2000 Mortality Table unprojected and summarized below:

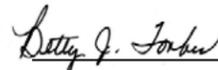
Total Commitment	\$71,269,000
Funded Portion	<u>\$56,533,544</u>
Un-funded Portion	\$14,735,446
Annual Contribution	\$1,901,992

Amortization period (years.)	10
Past Service Rate (\$)	\$560.00
Contingent Annuitant (%)	70.00
Interest Rate Assumption (%)	7.00
COLA Increase Assumption (%)	2.00

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits maintains all necessary record keeping and reporting related to covered participants and is available upon request.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits deems the valuation reasonable and prudent and that it upholds the standards set forth by the American Academy of Actuaries.

Subject to the mandatory final payment on Dec. 31, 2021, the Virginia Annual Conference reserves the right to modify this Funding Plan.

	4/11/12
Bishop	Date
	4/11/12
Chairperson, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.	Date



GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caring For Those Who Serve

1201 Davis Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201-4118
800-851-2201
www.gbophb.org

April 11, 2012

VIA EMAIL
Betty Forbes
Virginia Annual Conference
Post Office Box 5606
Glen Allen, Virginia 23058

RE: 2012 Funding Plan for the Virginia Annual Conference

Dear Ms. Forbes:

Attached is a copy of the funding plan for 2012 submitted for the portion of Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program attributable to the Virginia Annual Conference.

The total liability as of January 1, 2010, for 2012 is \$71,269,000 based on the following key actuarial assumptions:

- 7.0% interest
- RP-2000 mortality table unprojected
- Past service Rate of \$560 for 2012 and
- 2.0% increase in the Past Service Rate

In the opinion of The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, the attached funding plan meets the funding requirements of Paragraph 1506.8 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008*. This opinion applies only to the attached funding plan.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Featherstone
Actuarial Services

cc: Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Virginia Annual Conference
Ron Coleman, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Enclosure

RECOMMENDATION 6: 2013 HOUSING ALLOWANCE/EXCLUSION

Housing allowance and exclusion for retired and/or disabled clergy:

Whereas, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and

Whereas, the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or rental exclusion as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed clergy; and

Whereas, pensions paid to retired ordained or licensed clergy of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired ordained or licensed pastors in consideration of previous, active service; and

Whereas, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Virginia Annual Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental exclusion for retired ordained or licensed pastors who are members of this conference; and

Whereas, the disabled pastor has the same legal relationship to an annual conference as does the retired pastor and, thus, this annual conference is also the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental exclusion for a disabled ordained or licensed pastor who is a member of this conference;

Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved that:

1. An amount equal to 100 percent of the pension payments received by a retired clergy, or 100 percent of the disability benefit payments received by a disabled clergy, during the year of 2013 be and is hereby designated as a housing allowance and exclusion respectively for each retired or disabled, ordained or licensed clergy of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Virginia Annual Conference at the time of his or her retirement or disability; and

2. The pension or disability payment to which this housing allowance and exclusion applies shall be the pension or disability payment resulting from all service of such retired or disabled, ordained or licensed clergy from all employment by any local church, annual conference, general agency or institution of The United Methodist Church or of any former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the clergy to perform duties related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension or benefit funds for such retired clergy's pension or disabled clergy's benefits.

Note 1. The housing exclusion which may be excluded from a clergy's gross income is limited to the lesser of (1) the amount of the housing allowance designated by the clergy's employer or other appropriate body, (2) the amount actually expended by the clergy to provide his or her housing, or (3) the legally determined fair rental value of the parsonage or other housing provided.

Note 2. Per the Internal Revenue Service, the housing allowance and exclusion is available to clergy, not the clergy person's spouse or surviving spouse.

Betty J. Forbes, Chair

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY CENTER, INC.

As Lake Junaluska prepares to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2013, we find ourselves proud of our rich past, energized by the present challenges, and excited about the bright future.

We cannot thank you enough for the generous support you have provided to us over the years. We are a part of you and you will forever be a part of us. We fully understand that the Southeastern Jurisdiction is facing significant challenges resulting in a reduction in the financial support provided to traditional partners, including Lake Junaluska. We want to assure you that we are preparing well for a different form of partnership with the jurisdiction and you, the annual conferences, but do want to strongly affirm our desire to be in true partnership with each of you.

We are making some important improvements with the goal of serving you more effectively. In 2012 we will spend over \$1 million on capital improvements to our facilities, including \$300,000 from the North Carolina Energy Office for the replacement of inefficient heating and cooling systems. Being more "green" is one of our goals. We will use the remainder of the capital improvement funds to get a jump start on a campus master plan, which is a part of the overall strategic plan approved by our Board of Directors in October. Included in the plan are the interior and exterior renovations of the Terrace Hotel and Lambuth Inn, the replacement of the Harrell Center and Jones Cafeteria, and the updating of Stuart Auditorium. These changes will be taking place over the course of the next several years, but there should be noticeable changes the next time you come to visit.

The success of every organization is directly dependent on having the right people in the right positions doing the right things. It is also important to have the right number of people in place. There are fewer people employed at Lake Junaluska than there were a year ago at this time, a necessary change given our financial realities. The remaining staff has willingly taken on additional responsibilities and are doing them very well.

Hosting the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference in July will be a very important event. We are doing all we can to prepare for this conference with the hope that every delegate leaves here knowing that we have been good stewards of the resources that have been given to us.

Our mission statement for Lake Junaluska is to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. The significance of having a clear mission statement that people remember and refer to has been impacting. Continuing to create a culture of excellence and fabulous Christian hospitality will be our primary focus.

The future of Lake Junaluska is indeed very bright! Thank you for your incredible support as we have begun to live more fully into the potential of this place we call Lake Junaluska.

Jack Ewing, Executive Director

VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Virginia Council of Churches remains strong, albeit on very fragile financial footing, and will continue to serve the ecumenical movement within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Continuing declines to revenue have created the needed to reduce some of our staff to part time and cut all other areas of our budget in an effort to stay within budget.

In May we presented the Council's "Faith in Action Award" to the Brandermill Church, a joint United Methodist-Presbyterian congregation, and a "Lifetime Ecumenist Award" to Bishop Charlene Kammerer.

The council continues to support the LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Methodist) partnership, the National Workshop on Christian Unity and other expressions of ecumenism within the Commonwealth, and played a significant role in this year's shared statement by the ten LARCUM bishops and the General Minister released during the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

Our Annual Meeting, *Church Caught in the Middle*, was held on the historic campus of Virginia Union University with Dr. Ed Ayers (president, University of Richmond), and Dr. Claude Perkins (president, Virginia Union University). During the Annual Gathering a panel discussion with members various historic peace denominations reflected together on the challenges of conflict resolution.

We continue to work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in helping the faith-based community prepare for and respond to

disasters. During 2011 resources were stretched in the Commonwealth and voluntary organizations as we responded to tornados, hurricanes, even earthquakes, all within a very brief period of time. The Council of Churches continues to play a key role on the Disaster Fund created by Gov. Bob McDonnell to respond to the variety of events that have impacted the Commonwealth, also playing a role with the Long-Term Recovery Task Force in Louisa as that area recovered from last summer's earthquake.

The program units of the council remain strong and active. We continue to stand with our Native American brothers and sisters of the six Virginia tribes as they seek federal recognition. We are disappointed that the 111th Congress adjourned without taking any action, forcing our tribes to start all over again.

Our partnership with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy helps give voice to our shared concerns for justice on the floor of the General Assembly. We began two new initiatives this year raising awareness and addressing concerns relating to the shackling of pregnant inmates and the use of solitary confinement. Our Rural Family Development Program continues to serve children of migrant farm worker families. Our Refugee Resettlement Program celebrates 50 years of welcoming new Virginians in 2012, helping persons to start new lives in a new land.

Officers of the Virginia Council of Churches are: the Rev. David McKee, president; the Rev. Reginald Terry, vice president; the Rev. David Shumate, treasurer; Jean James, secretary.

Contact the Virginia Council of Churches at 1214 West Graham Rd., Richmond, VA 23220-1409, (804) 321-3300 or <www.vacouncilofchurches.org> for information about the council and links with member denominations at national and Virginia levels.

The Rev. Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister